SUNDAY
April 20, 2025

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ARTEFACTS AND AUDIENCES

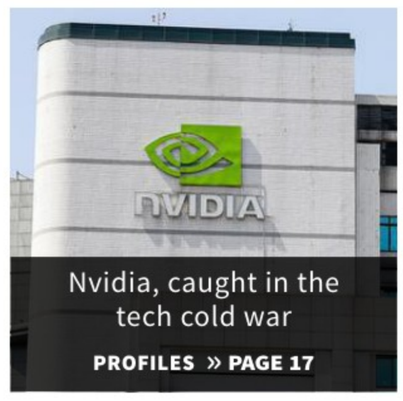
What ails Indian museums today?

Experts say we must question what stories are being told and who gets to tell them

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

India slams Bangladesh for persecution of Hindus

NEWS » PAGE 11



Nvidia, caught in the tech cold war

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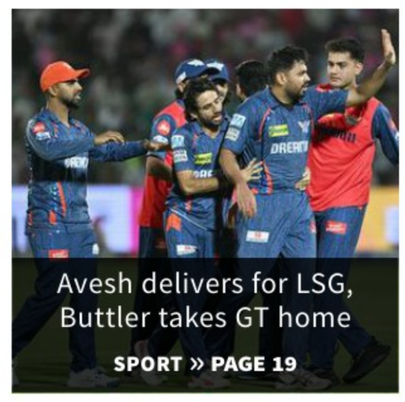

Avesh delivers for LSG, Buttler takes GT home

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Kharif season: Sowing target set at 82.5 lakh ha

BENGALURU
With above normal rainfall forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the upcoming monsoon season, the Department of Agriculture has set a target of sowing on 82.5 lakh hectares during the 2025 kharif season. » PAGE 9

JEE: Kushagra Gupta scores 100 percentile

BENGALURU
Kushagra Gupta is the only student from Karnataka who has secured a 100 percentile score in the Joint Entrance Examination 2025 (JEE Main), Session-2, Paper-1 (BE/BTech).

» PAGE 6

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 6 & 8
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Visa row: India expresses concern, U.S. denies bias

After survey finds 50% of students reporting revocations are Indian, American official says process not discriminatory; Ministry tight-lipped on raising the issue with J.D. Vance during his India visit

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India has "raised concern" through diplomatic channels about the visa revocation notices issued to Indian students in the U.S., government sources told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

After a survey found that 50% of those reporting the revocations were Indian, the issue was taken up days before U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance and senior U.S. State Department officials arrive in Delhi on Monday for talks.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government denied targeting Indians specifically.

The survey, conducted by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), studied 327 responses to a research call, out of an estimated 4,000 and more revocation notices sent out in the past two months, and found that half of the notices had gone to Indians.

At the receiving end: An estimated 4,000 and more visa revocation notices have been issued to students in two months. FILE PHOTO

The study was described in a policy brief that found "50% of these students were from India, followed by 14% from China", adding that other significant countries in the data included South Korea, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

Vetting process

Asked about the report and the indication that Indians were particularly targeted for the revocation of the Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVIS) status, an American official, who asked not to be named, denied that the process was discriminatory against Indians.

"Continuous vetting and visa revocation actions are not limited to visa holders from any specific country or area in the world. All visa applicants and visa holders, no matter the visa type and where they are located, are continuously vetted," the official told *The Hindu* in a written response.

The External Affairs Ministry declined to comment on whether the issue would be raised directly with Mr. Vance or other officials such as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Ricky Gill, who will be in Delhi on April 21 for official meetings.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 11

Metro hits all-time high ridership of 9.08 lakh on April 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro recorded its highest-ever daily footfall on April 17, Thursday, with a total of 9,08,153 boardings. This comes close on the heels of reports that metro ridership had come down following fare hike in February earlier this year.

According to official data, the Purple Line accounted for 4,35,516 riders, while the Green Line saw 2,85,240 commuters. A significant volume of traffic – 1,87,397 – was also recorded at Kempegowda interchange station.

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited had to revise the fare hike and cap the maximum stage-wise increase to 71% after the hike implemented earlier led to the doubling of metro fares in many cases, drawing much ire from passengers.

11 killed in Delhi building collapse

Heap of debris: Rescue teams at the site of the building collapse in Mustafabad in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

Eleven people, including four children, were killed and as many sustained injuries when a four-storey building collapsed at Mustafabad in northeast Delhi on Saturday morning.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was unsure about the age of the building in an unauthorised colony on a plot measuring around 550 sq. ft, an MCD official said.

Relatives of the injured alleged that the building collapsed as one of the pillars in a shop on the ground floor had been removed for renovation. However, the police said they are yet to ascertain the cause.

The owner of the building, Tehsin, is among the dead.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta ordered an investigation into the collapse, and promised strict action against those responsible.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 11

Robot marathon

Machine learning: Tiangong Ultra, a humanoid robot, running across the finish line to secure the first position during the E-Town Humanoid Robot Half Marathon in Beijing, China, on Friday. REUTERS

Rikki Rai, son of late Muthappa Rai, shot at

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rikki Rai

Rikki Rai, 35, son of late underworld operative Muthappa Rai, who died in 2020, was shot at by an unidentified assailant while he was travelling in a car with his driver and private security, from his Bidadi farmhouse to Bengaluru around 12.50 a.m., Saturday, (April 19). He sustained injuries on his right forearm and nose and is being treated at a private hospital, and is said to be out of danger. His driver also sustained minor injuries.

The incident happened just a few metres away from the gate of Muthappa Rai's farmhouse in Bidadi. The police are yet to ascertain whether the shooter was alone or had accomplices. Forensic Science and Scene of Crime teams that visited the spot on Saturday morning have collected multiple pellet samples from the scene, and preliminary investigation has indicated that a 12 mm bore shotgun was used to fire two rounds at the car.

There is no clarity whether Rikki Rai's gunman returned fire. With many criminal cases pending against him as well, Rikki Rai is known to have a rivalry with many gangsters.

Based on the complaint of the driver, also injured in the attack, Bidadi Police have registered an FIR against four accused – Rakesh Malli, a former associate turned foe of Muthappa Rai, Anuradha, Muthappa Rai's second wife and Nitesh Shetty and Vaidyanathan, owners of Bengaluru-based prominent real estate firm Nitesh Estates.

In his complaint, driver Basavaraju G. said that the injured Rikki Rai told him that he suspects these four to be behind the attack targeting him. After the death of Muthappa Rai, there is a property dispute between his second wife, Anuradha and his sons. Rakesh Malli is associated with the ruling Indian National Congress in Mangaluru. The four have been booked under section 109 of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023, for attempt to murder and Arms Act, 1959.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that the police had begun their investigation and will get to the bottom of the case and bring those responsible to book. Ramanagara District Police have formed four special teams to probe the case. They are analysing footage from multiple CCTV cameras in and around the area and analysing various other technical evidence for leads from the crime scene.

RELATED REPORT
» PAGE 3

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Handy tradition: While the distinct weaving patterns, colours, and motifs on the bags represent a tribe's unique cultural heritage, the bags are a practical companion for people in their day-to-day activities.

Fashion statement: A group of women with their sling bags on their way to a weekly market.

Threads of tradition

Many tribal communities in Assam are actively adopting hand-woven bags that serve as both an essential utility item and a symbol of cultural identity

Ritu Raj Konwar
rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

Bag making is a significant aspect of Assam's handloom heritage among its tribes such as the Bodo, Karbi, Tiwa and Rabha.

These bags are an integral part of their lives and are intertwined with their socio-cultural, religious, economic, and day-to-day life.

Many tribal communities in Assam are actively adopting and using traditional homemade bags. These cloth bags serve as an essential utility item and also as a symbol of socio-cultural identity. The distinct weaving patterns, colours, and designs on the bags represent a tribe's unique cultural heritage.

The bags are popular for market runs and temple visits and increasingly becoming the go-to option for labourers and school students.

Students in rural areas of Assam prefer to carry their books in these home-woven shoulder bags as it is light in weight, durable, easy to handle and wash, and above all stylish.

Most of these bags are made locally in traditional looms and many schools in Assam incorporate such bags as part of cultural awareness programmes.

The unique identity woven into these bags are safe for the foreseeable future as the younger generation too uses them with pride.

Unique spectrum: Threads of various hues are used for making bags.

All-new Google Pixel 9a

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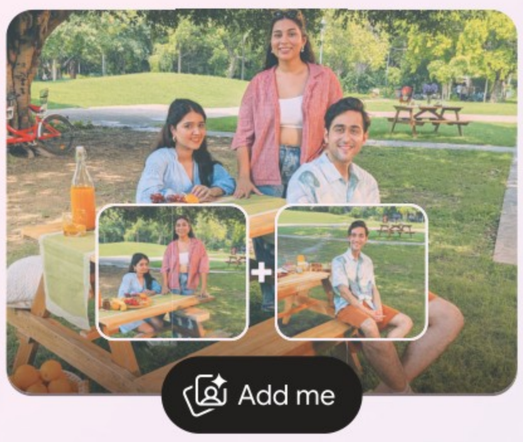

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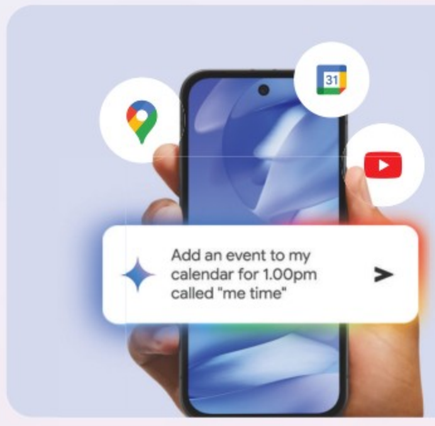

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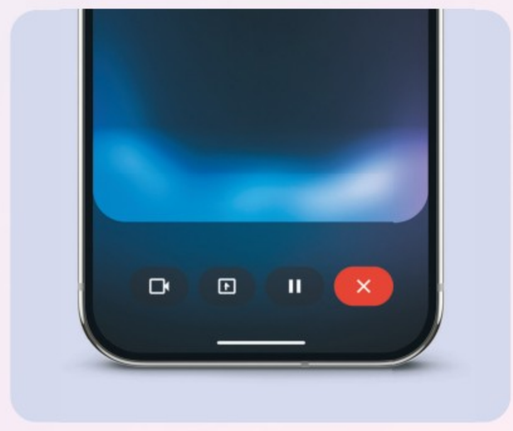

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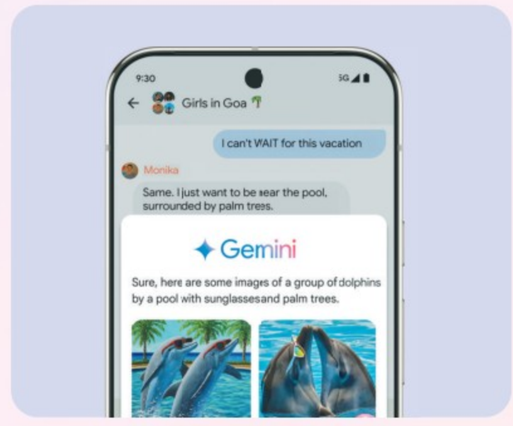
9:30
Girls in Goa
I can't WAIT for this vacation
Monika
Same. I just want to be near the pool, surrounded by palm trees.
Gemini
Sure, here are some images of a group of dolphins by a pool with sunglassesand palm trees.

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'Janivara' row: Principal and SDA dismissed in Bidar; two Home Guards suspended in Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/KALABURAGI

Shivamogga Deputy Commissioner Gurudatta Hegade, after verifying CCTV camera footage at a Common Entrance Test (CET) examination centre, has denied allegations that the 'janivara' ('sacred thread') worn by a student had been cut by a guard as the centre on Friday in the city.

However, two Home Guards at Adichunchanagiri College in Shivamogga have been suspended for stopping a student from entering the exam hall wearing the 'sacred thread', who was eventually allowed inside after the principal intervened.

Meanwhile, at Bidar, acting on two separate investigation reports, Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma recommended the dismissal of the principal and a staff member of Sai Spoorthi PU College in connection with the alleged denial of entry to a student wearing the 'sacred thread' to appear for CET.

The reports, submitted by the Assistant Commissioner and the Deputy Director of Pre-University Education, found principal Chandrashekhar Biradar and second division assistant (SDA) Satish Pawar responsible for "mishandling" the situation. Following the instruction, the college has dismissed both.

However, the Principal Secretary of Higher Education had directed the college management to suspend the Principal and staff from service and take disciplinary action and had not sought their dismissal.

Sequence of events

Describing the sequence of events at the Shivamogga centre at a press meet, Mr. Hegade said, as made clear in the CCTV camera footage, a student had voluntarily shown the 'sacred thread' he was wearing and asked the Home Guard if he was allowed to wear it. The guard had answered in the negative, and the student removed the thread himself. While examining another student, the guard said he could not appear for the CET wearing the thread. The student, however, refused to remove it. The principal who arrived at the place clarified that there was no bar on wearing the thread and he was allowed to write the exam, said the DC. Owing to a lack of awareness, the security staff had stopped the students. "Prima facie, it appears that religious sentiments were hurt due to the lack of awareness of the security staff. Two Home Guards have been suspended, pending further enquiry," he said.

Ex-MP's claim

Meanwhile, speaking in Mysuru, former MP and Congress leader V.S. Ugrappa claimed that he suspected the supporters of BJP to have triggered the row to widen the divide in society, amid the debate on the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report. Mr. Ugrappa said a probe in the matter should be conducted to bring out the truth.

Dandeli: Connectivity issues plague this coastal tourist destination

'Despite numerous requests, our elected representatives have not been able to bring passenger trains to Dandeli even though goods trains ply regularly on this route'

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Dandeli has a century-old railway station, but no passenger trains arrive there. There is a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus stand, but rarely does any bus arrive from distant destinations like Bengaluru. This is the condition of public transport facilities in Dandeli – one of popular adventure tourism destinations in Karnataka.

Dandeli is popular for its natural beauty and adventure activities, including white water rafting.

Situated in Uttara Kannada district, Dandeli is popular for its natural beauty and adventure activities, including white water rafting and jungle safari.

While tourists from across India find their way to this destination, connectivity remains a problem due to the over-reliance on private transport options.

"I planned to visit Dandeli a few weeks ago and checked the options to get there. While there were no direct trains, KSRTC had two Sarige buses, which did not have the sleeper option. For a journey that takes around 11 hours, it would be highly uncomfortable to travel in a seating-only bus. With no other choice, I booked a private bus and paid over ₹1,000 for a one-way ticket," said Sowbarnika S. from Bengaluru.

The locals there, including resort owners and drivers, say that better connectivity can increase the number of tourists.

"Our neighbouring States make connecting tourist destinations through public transport a priority. But, despite numerous requests, our elected representatives have not been able to bring passenger trains to Dandeli even though goods trains ply regularly on this route," said Ahmed, a cab driver in Dandeli.

The locals also mentioned that during Suresh Angadi's tenure as the Minister of State for Indian Railways, there was some hope about passenger trains coming to Dandeli, but after him, no one took the project forward.

The officials of the South Western Railway (SWR) said that passenger trains do not go to Dandeli mainly because of logistical reasons. "Dandeli is around 70 kilometres away from Hubballi. The road is good and the route is picturesque, which is why many people prefer to go there by road. Now trains must go from Hubballi to Alnavar, which is around 60 kilometres away. If the train has to go to Dandeli, the engine has to be reversed at Alnavar, which will take a lot of time," explained an official. He added that there is not much demand for train services to Dandeli. Even a train with just eight coaches will have a seating capacity of up to 400. "We will definitely run trains if we see such a huge demand for seats," he said.

However, a resort owner from Dandeli said, "How do they decide that there is no demand without running a train? Only when they introduce a service, or advertise them, will people know that it is an option, and then start taking it."

The number of KSRTC buses to Dandeli are not many. There is no sleeper service to Dandeli from Bengaluru, Mysuru, and other major cities. Locals credit this to the private bus lobby. In fact, many private buses are parked right next to the KSRTC bus stand in Dandeli.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the gap has been noticed by his department. "The number of tourists who are going to Dandeli has increased. We have decided to deploy more buses there. Out of the 50 non-AC sleeper buses we are onboarding, we will deploy a few to Dandeli. It will take around two months. We also plan to renovate the old bus stand there," he said.

17,900 women assisted at State's Sakhi centres; activists flag lack of resources

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

"Around a few weeks ago, we got a case where a woman had an extra-marital affair with a married man. She was a victim of domestic abuse. She had two children who were in SSLC and PUC. Both the families had a lot of issues. After they came here, we provided joint counselling services, sorted out their problems and now both families are functioning well," said an administrator of a One Stop Centre/Sakhi Centre from South Karnataka.

A file photo of a Sakhi - One Stop Centre in Udupi.

39 centres

These centres, set up by the Central government under the One Stop Centre Scheme, have assisted 17,944 women in the State who were in distress or were victims of abuse between 2021-22 and 2023-24, according to the data provided by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

There are 39 such centres in the State spread across all the districts to provide legal, medical or social aid to the victims.

These centres get anywhere between 10-15 cases to 25-30 cases a month, according to a source in the State's Department of Women and Child Development.

Medical, legal help

Most of these cases are of women who need medical or legal help due to domestic abuse, victims of POCSO cases and those who need counselling and rehabilitation.

However, activists feel that while the reporting of these cases has increased, the resources still remain inadequate.

"These days the crimes against women have taken an unimaginable turn and the situation has gotten so ugly. So just 39 centres for a State as vast as ours are definitely not enough," said K.S. Vimala, from the All-India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA). Karnataka, along with Bihar has the fifth highest number of these centres in the country. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number (79 centres) followed by Madhya Pradesh (57), Maharashtra (55) and Tamil Nadu (48).

Changing mindsets

Ms. Vimala also said that the effect of these centres has not been felt in society so far.

"These are supposed to be one stop centres with legal counsellors and police in the loop. If that is the case, then why have more cases not gone to court and why has not there been more convictions and why are police officials still not sensitised about crimes against women? All these points show that there is an inadequacy in the functioning of these centres."

She added, "These centres and their teams should change the mindsets of the society. Further, they should also be established in every police station."

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 20	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:33
RISE 00:01	SET 11:31
MONDAY, APR. 21	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:33
RISE 00:52	SET 12:28
TUESDAY, APR. 22	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:33
RISE 01:40	SET 13:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	24
Mysuru	34	21
Bengaluru	33	22

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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Richmond Town's Leonard Lane transformed in clean-up drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leonard Lane in Richmond Town underwent a remarkable transformation on Saturday, thanks to a clean-up and beautification drive led by civic action group The Ugly Indians (TUI), in collaboration with residents, children, BBMP workers, and local traffic police.

People taking part in a clean-up drive at Leonard Lane in Richmond Town.

What was once a garbage-strewn stretch, plagued by abandoned vehicles, has now turned into a walkable lane after 33 years.

Kavitha Hemant Rao, a member of the Citizens' Welfare Association, said: "We have formed a group to maintain cleanliness and ensure regular garbage collection".

She added that the clean-up included pest control, tree-trimming, music, and ice cream stalls to create a festive environment.

Children donned aprons and joined in, painting walls under professional guidance. The project unfolded in phases–removal of illegally parked vehicles, clearing debris, planting pots, and active resident involvement.

TUI, known for action-driven civic campaigns, coordinated with BBMP to clean, repair walls, and ensure long-term upkeep. "Our goal is citizen participation. We provide tools and materials to help people act rather than complain," said the TUI team.

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Woven with care: A traditional loom is used for making cloth bags by the Karbi community in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

Deft hands: A girl works on a traditional Tiwa loom, which is simple and cost-effective.

Crown jewel: A Tiwa bag is slung on top of broom grass being carried by a worker returning from the fields.

Off to school: Students in Karbi Anglong district wear their bags with pride.

Lasting legacy: The bags are popular among the youth, ensuring the tradition of making bags remains secure.

Did Rikki Rai evade bullet the first time, but become a target later?

Police say the shooter may have been hiding behind a wall and shot at Rikki Rai's car

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The car in which Rikki Rai was travelling in, after an armed gang opened fire at him at Bidadi near Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

The sequence of events narrated by Rikki Rai's driver in his complaint over the shooting indicates that the attacker may have fired at Rikki Rai twice, hours apart; he escaped unhurt the first time, but did not realise he had been targeted; then came back to the same spot hours later, and was then injured when he was shot at a second time.

In his complaint, Basavaraju G., said Rikki Rai came to the Bidadi farmhouse from the Sadashivanagar residence on Friday evening around 6 p.m. He left the Bidadi farmhouse towards Bengaluru around 11 p.m. with his gunman Rajpal.

"A few metres away from the gate, we heard a big sound. I drove a short distance ahead, stopped the car, and checked the tyres, but found them to be all right. We went ahead till Bidadi Railway Crossing. Rikki Rai realised that he had forgotten his wallet and asked me to return to the farmhouse. We came back and left for Bengaluru again at 12.50 a.m. At the same spot where we had heard a big sound earlier, we came under fire, injuring Rikki Rai and me," he said in the complaint.

Police said the shooter might have been hiding behind a compound wall nearby and shot at Rikki Rai's car.

"Someone has keenly watched his movements and attacked him. If the first time was also a gun fire attack, it raises questions as to why the attacker was still waiting in the same spot even after the car left towards Bengaluru. This shows that the attacker had up-to-date information about his movements," a senior police official said. Police suspect the attack was carried out by a hitman who might have had input from someone on the inside.

Rikki Rai reportedly has a base in Russia as well and used to frequently travel between India and that country. He has several criminal cases pending against him, and was active in Bengaluru's real estate scene and had running disputes with many, including within his own family.

He was raided by Bengaluru police in connection with a drugs case in 2020 and was named in a case where miscreants had burnt down the car of a businessman in Sadashivanagar in 2021.

The same year, Rakesh Malli, a former associate of Muthappa Rai turned foe, filed a complaint alleging Rikki Rai and two Bengaluru-based rowdy-sheeters, Silent Sunil and Onte Rohith, had been trying to kill him. Rakesh Malli has now been named as the prime suspect in the case of the attack on Rikki Rai, along with Muthappa Rai's second wife, Anuradha, and the owners of real estate company Nitesh Estates.

Rikki Rai and his brother Rocky Rai, said to be based out of Canada, have been involved in a long property dispute with Anuradha, who challenged Rai's will, which gave a lion's share to his sons. After a long legal battle, they claimed to have reached an out-of-court settlement in 2024.

However, the dispute still lingered, and cases were being fought over certain properties, sources said.

IAS officer files plaint against YouTuber

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Pallavi Akurathi, serving as Additional Mission Director of Sakala Mission, has filed a complaint with the East Division cybercrime police against a YouTuber for cheating her promising to sell a sari worth ₹850 online.

Based on the complaint, the police on Thursday registered an FIR charging the accused under the IT Act, 2000 and also under section 318(4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property) of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023.

In her complaint, Ms. Akurathi said that she tried to purchase a Madhurai Sungudi cotton sari through a YouTube vendor. After liking the sari from the video uploaded by Poornima Collection, and as per the information given in the video, the complainant had sent a screenshot of the selected sari on WhatsApp and paid the amount of ₹850 online, along with shipping charges, on March 10. Despite payment and assurance to send the product, the vendor did not send the product to her address.

The vendor is not responding to calls and messages. Though the amount paid is a small amount, it is to be noted that the vendor may be cheating a huge number of people, thereby accumulating a huge amount and thus committing mass cheating, she said in her complaint.

The police have sought the details from the bank to track down the accused through money trail.

Vocal concert today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nadasurabhi Cultural Association (NCA) will present a vocal concert showcasing the compositions of Muthuswamy Dikshitar on Sunday.

The concert will feature the acclaimed vocalist K. Gayatri. The programme is scheduled to begin at 4.15 p.m. at the Lecture Theatre, 1, Golden Jubilee Block, St. John's Medical College campus, Koramangala. For further details, visit the NCA official website at http://nadasurabhi.org.

APPOINTMENT

Indian Institute of Technology dhArwAD
Permanent Campus (PC), ChikkamalligawAD, dhArwAD 580 011, KarnATaka

Recruitment Notification

Advt. No.: IITDh/Admin/SR/33/2025-26 date 17th April 2025

IIT dhArwAD invites applications from the eligible Indian Nationals for Administrative [Group C-1] and Engineering Post [Group B-1] on Direct Recruitment basis. The online application form and detailed advertisement are available on the Institute's website.
https://www.iitdh.ac.in/announcement
The **Last Date** for submission of application is **16th May 2025.**

Sd/- Registrar

UPSIDA
UTTAR PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PURSUING GROWTH WITH DEVELOPMENT
YOGI ADITYANATH
Hon'ble Chief Minister, U.P.
NAND GOPAL GUPTA 'NANDI'
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Golden Opportunity to get plot at cheap rates.
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Anchor unit 10% discount
2% Additional Discount on one time full payment
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3.53 TPD
Emergency Response Centre
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Reliable Power
33/11 KV SS
Distribution network
CONNECTIVITY
Road
MDR 35 B passes through the site
NH 44 ~ 44 km.
NH 539 ~ 31 km.
Rail
TIKAMGARH Railway Station 35 km.
LALITPUR Railway Junction 50 km.
AIR
LUCKNOW ~ 385 km.
KHAJURAHO ~ 125 km.
LALITPUR AIRSTRIP ~ 50 km.
HOW TO APPLY
The application form & details available online on www.niveshmitra.up.nic.in.
The list of the plots terms & conditions available on website www.onlineupsida.com
Allotment will be made on "as is where is basis"
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CONTACT : RM Jhansi : 8178407133, Incharge Industrial Area : 9354045158
www.onlineupsida.com ceo@upsida.co.in, rmjhansi@upsida.co.in

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According to rough estimates, there are around 30,000 properties that have been issued digital khata certificates. FILE PHOTO

Pre-monsoon sanitation: BBMP to hold 10-day cleanliness drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The initiative will span all wards under BBMP's eight zones across the city from April 21 to 30

A large-scale cleanliness drive will be launched across all Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) zones from April 21 to 30 as part of a citywide pre-monsoon sanitation initiative. The announcement was made by Ramamani, Chief Operations Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited. (BSWML). The 10-day initiative will span all wards under BBMP's eight zones, targeting garbage dumped in public places such as footpaths, roadsides, and vacant plots. BSWML has identified major dumping sites across the city, and a coordinated effort has been planned to clean them in a phased but swift manner, BBMP press release stated.

Public participation is key to the campaign, with involvement expected from NGOs, resident welfare associations, apartment owners' associations, and volunteer groups. Alongside road and public space clean-up, authorities will also crack down on industries and shops using single-use plastic products.

Construction waste

Efforts are also under way to address construction and demolition waste. BBMP has committed to clearing all such waste dumped in open areas.

Awareness campaigns will accompany the drive, with auto tippers fitted with loudspeakers spreading the message against public dumping.

The campaign will be executed with full coordination between BBMP, BSWML and local citizens.

Move to digitise records of properties with e-khata raises risk of potential duplication

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

BBMP launched the e-khata system on Oct. 1 last year after the State govt. mandated this document for any form of land transaction

During the process of digitising property records to issue e-khatas in 2024, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has also scanned records for properties that had been issued digital khata certificates during a pilot project in 2022. According to rough estimates, there are around 30,000 such property records, potentially leading to the duplication of e-khatas.

In 2022, the BBMP introduced the option for property owners to obtain digital khatas or e-khatas. At that time, applicants were required to manually submit the necessary documents at sub-registrar offices. These documents were then scanned and uploaded into the system for e-khata issuance. Under the current system, property owners must upload their documents directly on the e-khata website after downloading the draft e-khata. To facilitate this new process, the BBMP has digitised approximately 23 lakh property records. The civic body launched the e-khata system on October 1 last year after the State government mandated this document for any form of land transactions. Till April 2, BBMP has issued 3.21 lakh final e-khatas and received 3.34 lakh applications for the same. However, the civic body should have excluded records for which e-khatas had already been issued, said former BBMP councillor M. Pari. Due to this oversight, it is now possible for a property to be issued a duplicate e-khata.

When *The Hindu* entered property IDs (PIDs) and names of property owners who were issued e-khatas in 2022, the system still generated a draft e-khata for these entries, and upon uploading the necessary documents, a second e-khata could be issued. Mr. Pari suggested that the BBMP's e-khata portal should immediately notify users if an e-khata has already been issued for a given PID. This feature would only be possible if necessary system changes are made.

'No cause for concern'

BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue), Munish Moudgil, acknowledged the issue and assured that there was no cause for concern. He said affected property owners need not reapply. In cases where duplicate khatas are issued, one can be removed from the system.

Mythic Society to host memorial endowment lectures today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mythic Society, a prominent Bengaluru institution dedicated to the study of history and culture, will host the Prof. G.S. Dikshith and Orgunti Ramachandraiah Memorial Endowment Lectures on April 20.

The programme will commence at 11 a.m. at the Centenary Hall, located on the second floor of The Mythic Society premises on Nrupathunga Road.

The lecture series will open with "Poetry in Temple Sculptures" by Arjun Bharadwaj, poet and scholar.

His talk is expected to delve into the lyrical and narrative expressions embedded in temple carvings, exploring how poetry and sculpture intertwine in India's sacred art traditions.

The second lecture will be by Prof. Appanna D. Sirdeshpande, Vastu expert and the founder of Appanna and Nirmala Architects and Associates, who will deliver a lecture titled "Indian Architecture: The Science of Vastu Shastra." Sirdeshpande will offer insights into the ancient architectural principles of Vastu, highlighting its relevance in contemporary design and urban planning.

The event is open to the public and is expected to draw scholars, students, architecture enthusiasts, and lovers of Indian art and culture.

Ramaiah memorial lecture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramaiah Institute of Technology (RIT) will host the M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Lecture on Monday, April 21, at 11 a.m. in the quadrangle at its Mathikere campus. V. Narayanan, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of ISRO, will be the chief guest. The event honours the legacy of M.S. Ramaiah, the founder of RIT, who was a renowned educationist and philanthropist.

M.S. Ramaiah established the Gokula Education Foundation in 1962, which marked the beginning of the Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT, Bangalore).

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Pothulluru Maheswara Reddy S/o P. Veera Reddy, R/@ #16, Krishna Reddy Layout, Basavanpura Main Road, Near SBI Bank, Bhatrahalli, Bengaluru-560049 do hereby solemnly state that, my son's correct name is **POTHULLURU PAVAN KUMAR REDDY.** But in his passport his name is wrongly mentioned as **POTHULLURU PAVAN KUMAR.** I further state that both these names refers to same person i.e., my son only. I further state that he will continue as **POTHULLURU PAVAN KUMAR REDDY** for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 19.04.2025 sworn to Notary.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. UBLSE-04-2025-26
Date - 15.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

S.N	Item of work	Approx.Value
1	Repair of Stako make CNC Plasma Profile cutting Machine at Carriage Repair Worshop, Hubballi.	Rs. 49,99,955/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 16.00 hrs on 06.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Divisional Electrical Engineer, Carriage Repair Workshop, Hubballi
PUB/51/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-1 Tender Notice No. Interlocking_ 16LC_SBC Div, Dt. : 03.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

S.N	Item of work	Approx.Value
1	South Western Railway Bengaluru Division-Interlocking of 16 non interlocked LC gates over SBC Division (Composite work of S&T, Engg., Electrical TRD & Electrical General)	Rs. 13,97,42,549.81/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 28.04.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Bengaluru
PUB/54/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client Smt.N.R.Vinu aged about 36 years, D/o Sri.Rajashekar Puttamudappa, W/o Sri.G.Udayaravi, residing at No. 7, 12th Block, JSS Layout, Siddarthanagara, VTC Mysore-570011. Intended to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner (1)Sri.S.Ramesh aged about 67 years, S/o late B.Srinivasalu, Residing at No. 89/136, 3rd Cross Road, Govindappa Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore -560004. (2)Sri.Shyamanth Ramesh aged about 35 years, S/o Sri.S. Ramesh and (3)Sri.Rajath Ramesh aged about 31 years S/o Sri.S. Ramesh, both are residing of No. 89/136, 3rd Cross Road, Govindappa Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore - 560004. Sl.No. 2 and 3 Represented by their father and GPA holder Sri.S. Ramesh and have entered into Sale Agreement dated 27.03.2025 registered as document No. 12418/2024-2025, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore.

All persons/firms/companies / banks / financial Institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien charge, trust maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise however into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned, at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No. 180, Khata No. 246/12, BBMP Khata No. 234/246/12/180, New Municipal Khata No. 1423, as per present E-PID No. 5140859072 issued by Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No. 160, property bearing No. 234/246/12/180, situated at Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West :40 feet and North to South : 60 feet, totally measuring 2400 sq.ft., and bounded on :-

East by : Property bearing No. 181, West by :Property bearing No. 179, North by : Road, South by :Property bearing Nos. 195 & 196

SHEKHARAPPA H.C, ADVOCATE
No.23/1, 1st Floor,1st Main, Near Swastik Circle, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560020
Bangalore. Date: 18/04/2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) TENDER NOTICE NO. 02 UBL 2025-26 Date : 15.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Hubballi Division: Londa-Belagavi LD-BGM) Section: Rebuilding of Br No. 91 & 112 { UP Line) on account of ORN 3 with Precast RCC segmental Boxes/Box pushing method in Desur-Belagavi (DUR- BGM} section	Rs. 2,39,78,969.00
2	Hubballi Division: **Sub work**-I) Proposed Foot Over bridge near Road Over Bridge 6/A @ Km.611/355 in Londa-Miraj (LD-MRJ) section.**Sub work**-ii) Proposed Foot Over bridge near ROB 26/A @ Km.613/326 in Londa-Miraj (LD-MRJ) section	Rs. 3,75,62,272.00
3	Hubballi Division: Improvements to Laying of water pipe line at Gadag Colony.	Rs. 44,08,063.00
4	Hubballi Division: Khanapur : Construction of 450 meter platform shelter and separate gents and ladies waiting rooms at Khanapur(KNP) Railway Station.	Rs. 2,89,89,116.00
5	Hubballi Division: Annual Track Maintenance under SSE/ P.Way/GDG (ML) Jurisdiction for a period of one Year.	Rs. 8,63,35,377.00

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 14.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination, Hubballi
PUB/53/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE NO. 03/2025/SBC Date : 10.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Tender No. : L8255519 Unit : SQFT

SN	Description in brief (E-open Tender)	Qty.
1	Designing in CorelDraw software, with multiple editing provision and eco solvent printing in trilingual (Kannada/Tamil/Telugu+Hindi+ English) on eco-friendly fabric cloth (Single side) andfixing/ installation on new M/S Frame at designated locations/stations engaging manual labour	1350
2	Designing in coral Draw software (Single side), editing in trilingual (Kannada/Tamil/Telugu+Hindi+English) signboard including designing using appropriate software with 3m high quality vinyl media printed with HP Latex (six colour) machine with Background of 5mm Sunboard with M/S Frame mounting at walls in the designated locations/stations engaging manual labour	2164
3	Designing in coral Draw software (single side), editing in trilingual (Kannada/Tamil/Telugu+Hindi+English) sign board including designing using appropriate software with 3m high quality retro reflective media printed with HP Latex (six colour) machine with 3m matt lamination with Background of 4mm ACP with M/S Frame & Clamp to fix with existing Pole/shelter in the designated locations/ stations engaging manual labour	1291.5
4	Designing in coral Draw software (Double side), editing in trilingual (Kannada/Tamil/Telugu+Hindi+English) signboard including designing using appropriate software with 3m high quality retro reflective media printed with HP Latex (six colour) machine with 3m matt lamination with Background of 4mm ACP with M/S Frame & Clamp to fix with existing Pole/shelter	3393
5	Designing in coral Draw software (single side), editing in trilingual (Kannada/Tamil/Telugu+Hindi+English) sign board including designing using appropriate software with 3m high quality retro reflective vinyl media printed with HP Latex (six colour) machine with 3m matt lamination with Background of 4mm ACP with M/S Metal frame & 12ft. round pole to firmly fix with ground using concrete mix. in the designated locations/stations engaging manual labour	1367

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 12.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Material Maneger, Bengaluru
PUB/52/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited for supply and installation of 65 inches smart TV(HD LED 4K UHD smart/Samsung/LG) at Army Public School ASC C & C. Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹250/-(Demand Draft in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 21 Apr 2025 to 28 Apr 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 29 Apr 2025 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice

Sealed quotations are invited for construction of Toilet Rooms for CWSN children at APS ASC C & C.Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹250/-(Demand Draft in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 21 Apr 2025 to 28 Apr 2025 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 29 Apr 2025 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office : Bangalore

E-AUCTION Sale of Properties on 09.05.2025
Last date of EMD : 08.05.2025

ARM – I Branch, 2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.g. Road, Bangalore – 560001. Ph No. : 080 25310066. E-Mail – cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described imovable propeties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM Branch-1,** Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **09.05.2025** at **1. 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM, 2. 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM & 3. 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM ,** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **08.05.2025 5.00 pm.**

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name and address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets	Total Dues Possession Type	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection Date & Time
1.	**1. M/s Polybond Organics Pvt Ltd.,** No.1268, 7th Cross, 15th Main Road, BTM Layout, Bengaluru 560 076. **2.Mr. Dinesh V Baliga** No.1268, II Stage, BTM Layout, Bangalore-560076 **3.Mr. Harish V Baliga** No.1267,Gururaj,I Main, BTM Layout II stage, Bangalore-560076 **4.Mr. Balakrishna V Baliga** **5.Mr. Jagadish V Baliga** **6.Mrs Divya Baliga** **7.Mr. N V Pavan Ram** **No. 4,5 & 6 are at :** No.35, Sneha,4th Cross, Venkatadri Layout, Banneraghatta Road, Bangalore-560076.	**1.** Commercial Apartment consisting of unit No 4, 4th floor Sub No.2/15 in the building known as "Narang Chambers" with PID No. 45-47-2/15 Situated at property No.2/3, Ward No 47, Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore – 560002 measuring super built up area of 415sft with undivided share of 89.52sft and flat bounded on north by Narasimharaja Road South by common passage East by Unit sub numbered 2/16 and west by Unit sub numbered 2/14 and site bounded at **North by** Narasimharaja road **South by** conservancy lane **East by** private property and **West by** Kumbaragundi property. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.9635787 Longitude- 77.5843143**	**Rs. 93,70,66,697.01** as on 18.04.2025 with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 28.73 b) ₹ 2.88 c) ₹ 1.00	**02.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		2. Commercial Apartment consisting of unit No 5, 4th floor Sub No.2/16 in the building known as "Narang Chambers" Situated at property No.2/3, ward no 47 Narasimharaja Road, Bangalore – 560002 measuring super built up area of 965sft with undivided share of 203.78sft and flat bounded on north by Narasimharaja Road South by Unit sub numbered as 2/17 East by Private property and west by Unit sub numbered 2/15 and site bounded at **North by** Narasimharaja road **South by** conservancy lane **East by** private property and **West by** Kumbaragundi property. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.9635787 Longitude- 77.5843143**		a) ₹ 66.81 b) ₹ 6.69 c) ₹ 1.00	
		Total		₹ 95.54	
2.	**1. M/S SRS Transport,** No. 53, 1st Main, Lakshmipuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru – 560008 **2. Sri Thulasiram V, S/o Vishwanath,** No. 53, 1st Main Road, Behind C M H Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru - 560008. **3. Smt. Bhuvaneshwari T, W/o Thulasiram V,** No. 53, 1st Main Road, Behind C M H Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru – 560008. **4. M/s SRS Logistics & Warehousing,** No. 3208, 6th C , Main Road, 13th Cross, HAL II stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru – 560038 **Also at M/s SRS Logistics & Warehousing,** No. B-45, 3rd Main, 1st Cross, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 1st Phase, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru – 560099.	All that piece and parcel of : **Property No 1:** bearing municipal No 115, 114,113,112,111 &110(old no: 3A,4,5,6,7,8) PID No: 75-2-110, 75-2-111, 75-2-112, 75-2-113,75-2-114, 75-2-115 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75, Halasuru Bangalore 560008 each measuring 200sq ft and in all measuring 1200 sqft and bounded on the **East by** Jogupalya main road, **West by** property of Sarvamangala, **North by** property belonging to Sri Sathisheshwar/HS Rajeshwari/RoopaSiddaraju and **South by** G 1st street. **Property no 2:** bearing municipal new no 2(old no: 33-40) PID:75-44-2 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75 Halasuru, Bangalore 560008 in all measuring 1723 sqft and bounded **East by** property belonging to Indumathi **West by** Cambridge road **North by** SV road/madras road and **South by** property belonging to Smt. Sarvamangala. **Property no 3:** bearing municipal new no 3(old no 26/32) PID no: 75-44-3 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75 Halasuru, Bangalore 560008. in all measuring 4617 sqft and bounded on **East by** property belonging to Smt Indumathi Shivaprasad, **West by** Cambridge road, **North by** property belonging to Sathisheshwar/HS Rajeshwari/Roopa Siddaraju and **South by** Kempamma temple. **Total Extant of the plot 7540 Sq.ft Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.974944 Longitude- 77.625500**	**Rs. 11,18,51,910.84** as on 18.04.2025 with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 950.04 b) ₹ 95.00 c) ₹ 1.00	**02.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
3.	**1. Shri Sendhil Elumalai S/o Elumulai Govindaraj,** # 10, O 2nd Street, Near Shree Complex, Shivan Chetty Gardens Bangalore-560042. **2. M/s PSB Distributors,** 19/1 Sadashiva Reddy Compound , behind Baldwin School, R M Nagar Main Road, banaswadi Bengaluru Karnataka 560043. **3. Shri Sendhil Elumalai** R/o 401/7 14th Main Old Madivala, BTM 1st stage, Bengaluru-560029 **4. Shri Bhaskar M,** No. 1534, 39th Cross, 4th Block, Jayanagar Bengaluru-560041.	**1.** Flat No. F-402 3rd floor F block, Sy No.108/3, 108/2, Measuring super built up area of 1089 Sqft along with 400 Sqft of undivided interest in land at Garden Residency Apartment, Bommasandra, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099. Boundries: **North-**open to sky of the apartment building, **South-**Common corridor, **East-**open to sky of the apartment building, **West-**Residential apartment privately numbered as F-401. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.8053267N Longitude- 77.6770091**	**Rs. 5,39,23,412.69** as on 18.04.2025 with further interest and cost there on	a) ₹ 50.82 b) ₹ 5.09 c) ₹ 1.00	**02.05.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM.** with Prior Appointment with The Authorized Officer
		2. Flat No. F-403 3rd floor F block, Sy No.108/3, 108/2, Measuring super built up area of 1089 Sqft along with 400 Sqft of undivided interest in land at Garden Residency Apartment, Bommasandra, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099. Boundries: **North-**common corridor, **South-**open to sky of the apartment building, **East-**open to sky of the apartment building, **West-**Residential apartment privately numbered as F-404. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.8053267N Longitude- 77.6770091**		a) ₹ 50.82 b) ₹ 5.09 c) ₹ 1.00	
		3. Flat No. F-404 3rd floor F block, Sy No.108/3, 108/2, Measuring super built up area of 1089 Sqft along with 400 Sqft of undivided interest in land at Garden Residency Apartment, Bommasandra, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099. Boundries: **North-**common corridor, **South-**open to sky of the apartment building, **East-**Residential apartment privately numbered as F-403, **West-**Lift area. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.8053267N Longitude- 77.6770091**		a) ₹ 50.82 b) ₹ 5.09 c) ₹ 1.00	
		4. Residential Villa old: property bearing Sy No.119/2 panchayat khatha 92/180 S Medahalli village Sarjapur Hobli Anekal Taluk Bangalore. New: Property bearing Villa No.180/6A Sarjapur Athipalli cross road Sarjapur Bangalore 5621244, Extent 3841.66 Sqft. Boundries: **North-**Road, **South-** property bearing Sy No.117, **East-**property bearing Sy No.119/1, **West-** property bearing Sy No.119/3. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.834639 Longitude- 77.780889**		a) ₹ 284.34 b) ₹ 28.44 c) ₹ 1.00	

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 19.04.2025

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Canara Bank

Govt. of Uttarakhand
देवभूमि रजत उत्सव

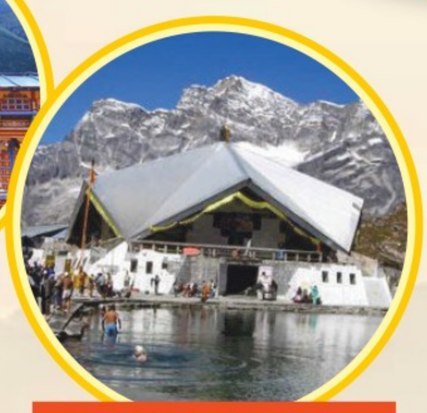
Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

Shri Yamunotri
30 April, 2025

Shri Gangotri
30 April, 2025

Shri Kedarnath
2 May, 2025

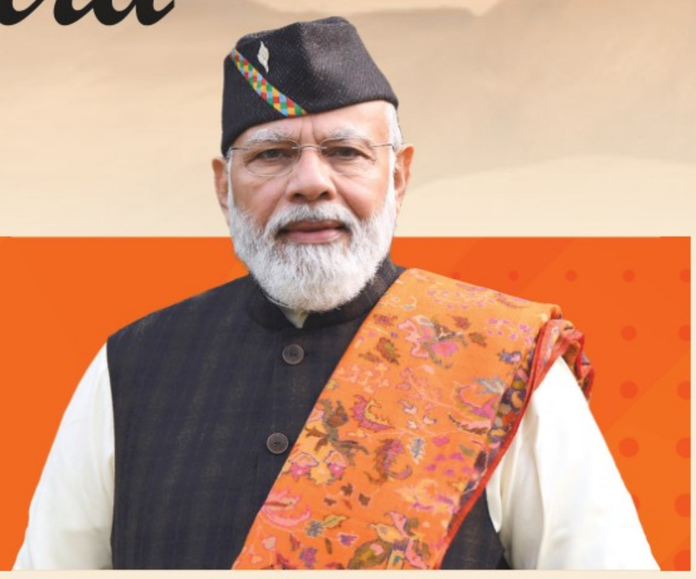
Shri Badrinath
4 May, 2025


Shri Hemkunt Sahib
25 May, 2025

Green
Chardham Yatra

Heartiest Welcome and Greetings to all Pilgrims

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand


Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Easy & Safe Chardham Yatra

Spiritual & Natural Gems along the Yatra Route

NEAR YAMUNOTRI: Janki Chatti, Hanuman Chatti, Kharsali Village, Saptarishi Kund, Pandav Cave, Lakhamandal, Kedarkantha Trek, Rana Chatti

NEAR GANGOTRI: Gaumukh Trek, Bhojbasa, Tapovan, Suryakund & Gaurikund, Harsil Valley, Mukhimath (Mukhba), Dayara Bugyal Trek, Gartang Gali, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Nachiketa Tal, Dodital

NEAR KEDARNATH: Bhairavnath Temple, Vasuki Tal, Gaurikund, Triyuginarayan Temple, Chopta – Tungnath – Chandrashila, Rudraprayag, Deoria Tal

NEAR BADRINATH: Mana Village, Vyas Gufa & Ganesh Gufa, Bhimshila, Auli, Valley of Flowers, Vasudhara Falls, Charanpaduka, Tapta Kund, Narad Kund, Jyotirmath (Joshimath), Satopanth Falls, Pandukeshwar, Adi Badri Temple, Alkapuri, Hemkunt Sahib

Essential items while traveling

Raincoat	Sunglasses	Water Bottle
Mask	Glucose Biscuit	Stick
Cold Cream	Torch	Monkey Cap
Muffler	Canvas Shoes	Cash
Socks	Sanitizer	Sweater
Umbrella	ID Proof	Gloves

For Registration

registrationandtouristcare.uk.gov.in

Toll Free number 0135 1364

Download the App:
touristcareuttarakhand

Google play | Download on the App Store

Helicopter/For more details, visit official website.

www.heliyatra.irctc.co.in

IRCTC Helpline No. 1800110139
080-44647998/080-35734998

Uttarakhand Tourism toll free number
1364/0135 3520100

Important Information

- Complete registration before starting the yatra (pilgrimage).
- Enter a valid mobile number during registration.
- Collect the Darshan Token at the respective shrines.
- Follow the yatra route & take rest at designated halts.
- Avoid littering—help keep the route clean & green.
- Maintain a controlled speed and park vehicles only in designated areas.
- Register your vehicle at [greencard.uk.gov.in] (http://greencard.uk.gov.in).
- Refrain from using single-use plastics during the yatra.

Take Special Care of your Health

- Get a health check-up at the nearest health centre before starting the yatra.
- Individuals with heart conditions or hypertension should take extra precautions.
- If you feel unwell at any point, do not continue. Seek help at the nearest medical centre.
- Carry essential medicines, a first-aid kit, and all necessary medical documents and prescriptions.

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY JOURNEY !

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JEE: Kushagra Gupta scores 100 percentile

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kushagra Gupta is the only student from Karnataka who has secured a 100 percentile score in the Joint Entrance Examination 2025 (JEE Main), Session-2, Paper-1 (BE/BTech).

Kushagra, the State topper, is a student of Narayana Co-Kaveri Bhavan College, Kasavanahalli in Bengaluru. He is one among 24 students in India to have secured 100 percentile.

Kushagra Gupta

Mathangi Parthasarathy

Ratan S. Bhagawati

Earlier, Kushagra achieved a 100 percentile score in JEE (Mains) Session-1, Paper-1, which was held in January 2025. Principal of Narayana Co-Kaveri Bhavan College and staff members congratulated him for the feat.

"My focus was mainly on improving myself and becoming consistent over time, instead of just going for a top rank. I thought that the next day, I had to do better than last time. In our school, they used to conduct exams daily. I got a lot of practice from that and improved a lot," said Kushagra Gupta.

Kushagra is preparing for the JEE-2025 (advanced) and hopes to get a seat in IIT-Bombay for computer science. "I spend around 12 to 13 hours every day on studies, go out to play when stressed out and try to pick back up the pace soon after. I liked Maths and Physics and thought Engineering would suit me well," he added.

Mathangi Parthasarathy and Ratan S. Bhagwati of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakar Nagar, have got 99.99 percentile score.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the result of JEE (Main)-2025, session-2 of Paper-1 for the entrance of professional courses like BE/BTech in premier technical institutions like Indian Institute Technologies (IITs), late night on April 18.

This time, a total of 24 candidates secured 100 percentile score. Rajasthan has the highest number of top scorers (7), followed by 3 students each from Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

The JEE (Main) 2025 session-2 of paper-1 (B.E./B.Tech.) was conducted by NTA from April 2 to 8. Among 10,61,840 candidates registered for the examination, 9,92,350 appeared. The exam was held in 13 languages, including Kannada, at 531 examination centres in 300 cities, including 15 cities outside India.

IPL 2025: Railing along Cubbon Road inconveniences pedestrians

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The railing installed along the footpath at Cubbon Road for the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been inconveniencing the pedestrians using this road.

The railing was put up recently by the Bengaluru Traffic Police after securing permission from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

The railing was erected by the police for the safety of cricket enthusiasts who stand in queue to enter the stadium during the IPL matches at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The entire footpath that runs along the road has been barricaded with railing to ensure match goers do not walk on the road leading to traffic congestion.

However, this is now causing problems for regular pedestrians, especially those crossing the road from Cubbon Park Metro Station (HAL exit).

The pedestrians are now unable to step onto the footpath as the railing stands as an obstruction. They have to either jump over it or have walk till the Cubbon Park signal to land on the footpath.

James P., a pedestrian talking to *The Hindu*, said he and his friends had to walk along the rail, on the edge of the road carefully amidst dense traffic.

There is a danger of walkers getting hit by the vehicles commuting on the road.

Ramesh, who operates an auto near the metro station, said that after railing was placed, many are struggling to walk on the footpath. The railing leaves no space for pedestrians to enter after crossing the road.

A senior BBMP official said the BTP, after depositing ₹8 lakh demand draft, had secured permission to install the railing, but the BBMP is unaware that this has resulted in inconvenience to the pedestrians. The BBMP will inspect the place and do necessary arrangements to resolve the problem, the official added.

The railing was put up by the Bengaluru Traffic Police near Chinnaswamy Stadium after securing permission from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Office the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC
PWD, Bangalore 560001

No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26/89 Date: 19.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tender for Six Road Safety works in Mandya and Yadgir Districts. Further details can be obtained from KPP Portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 21.04.2025, 05:30 PM Onwards.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/264/AKAR/2025-26 Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru.

(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU.

No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/ETP&STP/BC/28/2024-25, Date:19.04.2025

Tender Notification

e-Tenders is invited from interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for "Annual Maintenance of ETP & STP for Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospitals & College Building" of SABVMCRI.

1) The starting date for uploading tender : **19.04.2025** onwards. **2)** The last date for clarifications on tender : **24.04.2025, upto 5.30 P M. 3)** The last date for uploading the tender : **28.04.2025 upto 5.30 P M. 4)** Opening of Technical bid : **02.05.2025 at 10.30 A M.**

For more details pertaining to this tender, contact the Director and Dean/ Assistant Administrator of the Institute during office hours.

Sd/- Director and Dean,
DIPR/CP/277/Zen/2025-26 SABVMCRI Bengaluru

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Central College Campus, Dr|| B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Banglore-560001
Ph.No.080-22961016 / 22131385 E-Mail ID: registrarbcu@gmail.com

No:BCU/ACA/UG-Adm /02/2025-26/ Date : 19.04.2025

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Admission to the Under Graduate Courses at the BCU- "Jnanajyothi -Central College Campus" and Constituent College for Women at Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission to the Under Graduate Courses offered at **Bengaluru City University, "Jnanajyothi -Central College Campus"** and **at the University college for women, at Malleshwaram, Bengaluru for the Academic year 2025-26.**

1) Specialized Courses offered at "Jnanajyothi - Central College Campus"

Languages: Kannada, English, Hindi, French, and German

a) BCA (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
b) BCA (Data Science)
c) B.Sc (Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics)
d) B.Sc (Fashion and Apparel Design)
e) B.B.A (Business Analytics)
f) Industry Integrated Programs
i) B.Com (Finance & Accounting)
ii) B.Com (Financial Technology) Self- Finance
g) B.A - English, French, History, Economics, Journalism (Any three subjects)

2) Courses offered at University College for Women, 13th cross Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.

Sl.No	Courses	Subject
	Languages	Kannada, English, French, German, Sanskrit and Hindi
1	B.C.A (General)	Compulsory subject
2	B.B.A (General)	Compulsory subject
3	B.Com (General)	Compulsory subject
4	B.Sc	Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics
5	B.A	English, French, History, Economics, Journalism (Any three subjects)

The aspiring candidates shall visit the University Website: **www.bcu.ac.in** for further details online registration visit **https://uucms.karnataka.Gov.in** portal designed by govt.of Karnataka Constant browsing of the above website and portals are advised for updates.

The University is committed to provide the quality teaching learning resources with the required infrastructure. The students, parents and general public are requested to make use of this opportunity of providing quality education under the aegis of University.

The admission processes will start from **Date:21.04.2025** for further details visit University website **www.bcu.ac.in.**

NOTE: If the required number of applications is not received for any particular course the University has the right not to make admissions.

DIPR/CP/275/SSC/2025-26 Sd/- REGISTRAR

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 01 Dated: 18/04/2025

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipments:

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value Rs. crores (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17.00hrs
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0199	Procurement of Filters (Air, Oil & Fuel filters)	12.00	19/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0200	Procurement of Air suspension parts for premium buses	1.50	19/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0201	Procurement of Envelope and Curing Bag	1.30	19/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0202	Procurement of GHT Bolt & GHT U Bolt with Nyloc Nuts	1.37	19/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0204	Procurement of Industrial Gases (Dissolved Acetylene, CO2, 02 & Commercial Argon)	0.95	05/05/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0205	Procurement of Engine Valve Guides	1.10	19/05/2025
	SHORT TERM TENDER		
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0198	Procurement of Pre-cured Tread Rubber with Allied Materials	12.00	25/04/2025
KSRTC/2025-26/IND0203	Procurement of Retro reflective Tape without QR code	1.15	03/05/2025

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.

NOTE:-Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-46010000/080-68948777). Interested bidders may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224)

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/268/2025-26 CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
MCC Commercial Complex, R. No. 02, 1st Floor, Lalbagh, Mangalore - 575003
Email: adtourismmangalore@gmail.com Telephone No: 0824-2453926

No:TD/DD/DK/M/65/2024-25 Date: 19-04-2025

Sasihithlu Beach E-tender Pre-bid meet

District Tourism Development Committee, Dakshina Kannada is inviting E-tender from the interested, eligible and experienced bidders for the maintenance and development of Sasihithlu Beach, Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada district for a period of 02 years through e-procurement. Tender being published on **12-03-2025**, the terms and conditions of the tender can be obtained from the e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Interested institutions, companies or individuals can participate in tender by paying EMD amount through e-procurement portal. The last date for the submission of tender is extended **up to 28th April 2025.** Pre-bid meet regarding the tender will be conducted **on 22-04-2025, 10.30 a.m.** at the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dakshina Kannada. Interested bidders are requested to participate in the same.

Sd/- Deputy Director And member secretary
District Tourism Development Committee,
Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/88/25-26 dt. 19.04.2025

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬೈಂದೂರು-576214, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಸಂ: ಬೈ.ಪ.ಪ/ಕ.ಅ/**SBM 2.0**/ಸಿಆರ್/104/2025-26 ದಿ: 17/04/2025

ಈ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999 ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಬೈಂದೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ (ನಗರ) 2.0 ನಿಧಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **KPPP** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ **Standard Tender Document KW-3** ಮತ್ತು **KW-4** ರಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿ: 03/05/2025 ರಂದು ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ ಸಮಯ:5.00 ಗಂಟೆ** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (1) Construction of (i) Sanitary Landfill (ii) Leacahte Collection Tank (iii) Ground Water tank & (iv)Septic Tank at Propsed SWM Site in the limits of Byndoor TP **(DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT38756),** ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.62,29,000, ಇಎಮ್‌ಡಿ: ರೂ.1,05,172

(2) Construction of Processing shed of 30x50m for Waste Management in the limits of Byndoor TP **(DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT38754)** ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.1,39,00,000, ಇಎಮ್‌ಡಿ: ರೂ.2,00,000

(3) (I) Construction of office Building (II) Construction of Security Building (III) Construction of Toilet Building (IV) Development of Rain WaterHarvesting (RWH) (V) Construction of Compound Wall & Gate (VI)Sinking of Borewell and Installation of Submersible Pump (VII) Construction of Weigh Bridge Flatform (VIII) External electrification works (IX) Constrction of Internal CC Road (X) Constrction of Internal CC Drain at Propsed SWM Site in the limits of Byndoor TP **(DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT38758)** ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ.1,52,00,000, ಇಎಮ್‌ಡಿ: ರೂ.2,00,000

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಿರಿಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ವಿಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-, ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಬೈಂದೂರು
ಸಹಿ/-, ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಬೈಂದೂರು

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸಿಬಿಬಿ/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/41/25-26 ದಿ: 19.04.2025

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M BG-BGE

Soon, all hospitals may have to send data of elective joint surgeries to Health Dept.

Following poor response to the 'second opinion helpline' for joint surgeries, the department is planning to contact patients and provide a second opinion to help avoid unnecessary surgeries

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Soon, all hospitals in the State may have to send data of elective joint surgeries to the Health Department, much ahead of the surgery date. Following poor response to the State's second opinion helpline for joint surgeries that was launched on November 19, 2024, the Department is now planning to contact the patients and provide a second opinion to help avoid unnecessary surgeries.

Since its launch, the dedicated second opinion helpline – 18004258330 – has received 99 calls. Functional round the clock under the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), the nodal agency implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Chief Minister's Arogya Karnataka (AB-PMJAY-CM's ArK), the helpline was set up to ensure that every citizen receives comprehensive and personalised medical advice for managing joint-related issues.

Joint replacement surgeries are increasing due to the growing prevalence of arthritis, age-related joint degeneration, and injuries. GETTY IMAGES

Our team of experts will contact the patients and review whether the surgeries are actually required or if the condition can be conservatively managed, says Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health)

Growing prevalence

Joint replacement surgeries like total knee replacement (TKR) and total hip replacement (THR) are increasing due to the growing prevalence of arthritis, age-related joint degeneration, and injuries. However, not all patients with joint problems may need surgery and the condition can be conservatively managed in some, according to experts.

Informed decisions

Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health), said in such a situation, patients are often faced with dilemmas and have challenges in deciding upon the best available treatment/surgery.

The helpline has been set up to help such patients make informed decisions by getting a free second opinion for complex elective joint surgeries from government experts, he said.

"As the response to the helpline has not been great so far, we are contemplating asking all hospitals registered under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act to share details of patients scheduled to undergo elective joint surgeries in advance. Our team of experts will contact the patients and review whether the surgeries are actually required or if the condition can be conservatively managed. The intention is to ensure that every citizen receives comprehensive and personalised medical advice for managing joint-related issues, and if there are any alternatives to prevent surgery. We are working on bringing in such a system, and discussions are on," Mr. Gupta told *The Hindu*.

According to data from SAST, of the 99 calls received so far, only 20 callers shared documents for a second opinion from experts.

However, experts could review only 17 of these 20 patients as the remaining had not shared complete and correct documents, SAST officials said. "The helpline is aimed at providing evidence-based guidance by a group of experts to patients having knee and hip problems and guiding them to take a mature decision about the best available treatment option. However, 79 of the 99 callers called seeking consultation for joint problems and not a second opinion for surgeries, thereby diluting the purpose of the helpline," officials said.

A look at the district-wise calls to the helpline revealed that 30 of the 99 callers were from Bengaluru, followed by eight from Kalaburgi and six from Dakshina Kannada.

Of the 319 online referrals for total hip replacement and total knee replacement surgeries under AB-PMJAY-CM's ArK, the expert committee found that 21 patients (7%) did not require the surgeries, and five were suggested alternative methods. The committee found that the joint space was maintained, and there were no osteoarthritis changes seen in the joint in these cases.

Before launching the second opinion helpline, the online referral system under the government health scheme was introduced for joint surgeries on October 29, 2024. Since then, the 319 referrals have been received till April 11, the officials said.

Objection raised to Minority Welfare Dept. making selective promotions without revising C&R rules

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Strong objections have been raised against the Minority Welfare Department for promoting District Officers in group 'B' cadre posts to group 'A' cadre posts without revising the Cadre and Recruitment Rules (C&R).

Even while this issue has not been resolved, in the latest move, the government has directed that candidates from the cadre of the department's first division assistants, wardens, computer assistants and wardens of Minority Morarji Desai Residential Schools should be considered for promotion to fill 50% of posts of Taluk Minority Extension Officers.

It has been 14 long years since the C&R rules of the department, framed in 2011, have been revised. But promotions are being carried out only through executive orders after obtaining permission from the Finance Department, drawing the ire of others in the department who have been denied promotions on the grounds that C&R rules have not been revised.

The State government separated the Minority Welfare Department, which was under the jurisdiction of the Backward Classes Welfare Department, in 2011. In this context, the Minority Welfare Department formulated C&R rules in 2011 and made appointments. Since then, the department has expanded considerably and has started hundreds of government model schools, boarding schools, and residential centers for employed women and others.

A total of 31 DOs are working in the department, and these are cadre B posts. On February 23, 2023, the Department took permission from the Finance Department and promoted 15 posts of DOs and promoted to cadre A post, through an executive order. While approving the same, the FD directed the Minority Welfare Department to revise the C&R rules within six months. However, the Department has not done so, and on February 15, 2025, promoted the posts of the remaining 16 DOs to cadre A posts, again through an executive order.

C. Rangappa, president of Karnataka State Minority Welfare Department Government Employees Association, said that they were not opposed to promotions, but hundreds of others have been stuck without a promotion for nine years, due to lack of clarity in C&R rules.

SSLC: Invigilators find strange requests

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Teachers deputed as invigilators for SSLC examinations found some very interesting requests in the answer papers of students who were apparently not well prepared, but were aspiring to pass in Chikkodi in Belagavi district.

One boy attached a currency note of ₹500 with a love-laden heart drawing on it, along with an interesting note.

"The girl I love has told me she would reciprocate only if I pass SSLC. Please, my love is in your hands. Your actions will determine my love life. Kindly take this money and have tea. I will fall at your feet. Please see that I pass," he said. Another candidate who identified herself as a girl urged to help her pass. Another placed an offer to pay money, sources said.

India Post releases special cover 'Lakkundi- Cradle of Stone Craft'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark World Heritage Day 2025, India Post released a special philatelic cover titled "Lakkundi – Cradle of Stone Craft" at the Philately Bureau, General Post Office in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Heritage gem

The cover celebrates Lakkundi's exquisite stone architecture and its status as a heritage gem of Karnataka.

V. Tara, Director of Postal Services in Bengaluru's headquarters region, released the special cover in the presence of H.M. Manjesha, chief postmaster, and Sakshi Jain, founder of *Lakeerein_by_sakshi*.

Postcards

A vibrant new series of six picture postcards under the theme "Namma Devalaya", highlighting Karnataka's architectural heritage, was also launched in collaboration with *Lakeerein_by_sakshi*.

Available at bureau

The special cover and postcard set are available at Philatelic Bureaus in Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mangaluru, and Mysuru.

The initiative aims to promote and preserve the State's rich cultural and architectural legacy through philately.

Advocate killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Assistant Public Prosecutor was killed when the scooter he was riding crashed into a speeding car on Sulibele road in Hoskote Police station limits on Friday. The deceased, Nagesh of Gangavara, was returning home on the scooter when the incident occurred. He was working in Sakleshpur court.

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITAION DEPARTEMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA .
Phone No.: 08194-234488 e-mail: eerdwsd.chd@gmail.com

Tender Notification No: EE/RDWS&SD/CTA/Tender/30/2025-26/ Date: 17.04.2025

Tender Notification

Tender has been invited Under 2025-26 FY Swacha Bharath Mission (G) Schemes in Two cover system. Eligible tenders may obtain the details and tender documents and submitted the filled tender online through website view.http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Construction of 3KLD capacity FSTP's at Chitradurga, Hosadurga and Molakalmuru Taluk's for an estimated cost of Rs. 261.55 Lakhs (Per Taluk 01 Unit) Last Date for Receipt of Bids Dt: 02.05.2025, Technical Bid Opening 03.05.2025 and Financial Bid Opening 06.05.2025 For Further details Office of Executive Engineer and also through e-port web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/22/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer RDWS&S Division, Chitradurga

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/241 DATE: 15/04/2025

Time Extension e-Tender Notification-1

Short term e-tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/6461 Dated 28/03/2025 was called & Now the First time extension is made for the work at Sl No. 1 & 3, is as below.

Calendar of events:1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 29-04-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 02-05-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 05-05-2025 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-117/KSMCA/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಕಾವಿ/ಕು.ಸ/ಅ.ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/83 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–04–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ "ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್" ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ **KW-2** ರನ್ವಯ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಮ್‌ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	Providing painting to compound wall for surrounding Administrative Building, Examination Block, Guest House and all Grill works of KSLU Premises, Navanagar, Hubballi (Work Indent No. KSLU/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT 6/CALL-3)	50.00	85,000.00	28.04.2025	29.04.2025	02.05.2025

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ "ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್" **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17–04–2025** ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ – ಸಂದೇಹ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25–04–2025** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **ಸ್ಥಾನಿಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ** ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಿಂದ ಮುಂಜಾನೆ **10.00** ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (ರಜೆ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/67/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೈಸ್‌/2025–26
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KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL,
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State : Karnataka. Pin - 591 307. Phone : 08332-225213,
E-mail : knnlgrbccd3.gokak@gmail.com

No. : K.N.N.L./G.R.B.C.C./Div-3/DB/Tender/Arabhavi Tank Filling Stage-II/2025-26/02 Date : 19-04-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION / Call-2

(Through KPP Portal only)

On behalf of the **Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., GRBCC Division No. 3, Gokak, Belagavi District in Karnataka State** invites tender KW-4 Standard Bid document on LUMP SUM TURN KEY basis on KPP portal for the **"Selected 13 Tanks Filling of Arabhavi Constituency of Belagavi District from Ghataprabha River (Including 5 years maintenance) (Arabhavi TFS Stage-II) on Turnkey basis" (Indent No. 2583) work from the registered Valid KPWD Class-I contractor. The intending bidders can Submit Bids as an individual / Joint Venture.**

Approximately Amount Put To Tender : Rs. 107.66 Crores (Excluding GST) (No. of Works : 01)

1) The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document, i.e. the Tender schedules, bid documents and other documents in the web site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) from : 21-04-2025 to 22-05-2025 upto 16.00 Hours. The Pre-Bid Meeting will be on : 05-05-2025 in the office of the Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigma Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building, Bangalore at 11.30 a.m. The queries if any are to be sent by the intending bidders to the Executive Engineer on or before : 12-05-2025, 17.00 Hrs. Last Date of Bid Submission : 22-05-2025 16.00 Hrs. Technical Bid Opening on : 26-05-2025 11.00 Hrs. Financial bid opening will be done after approval of Technical Bid.

Further information can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., GRBCC Division No. 3, Gokak, Belagavi District, State : Karnataka during Office hours. Phone No. : 08332-225213 & E-mail : knnlgrbccd3.gokak@gmail.com.** Other conditions are as published in KPP Portal only. Further if any Corrigendum / Addendum or any modifications of this tender will be published in the Website of E-procurement only.

DIPR/Belagavi/118/Manipal/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., GRBCC Div. No. 3, Gokak.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION RAICHUR

No:ACF/SFDR/KPPP.Proc.Tender/CR- /2025-26 Date: 19-04-2025

e-Tender Notification (ಮೂರನೇಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ)

This is to inform the public that, for the Financial Year 2025-26. Deputy Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur has invited Tender for Forest Works through e-Procurement (Website Link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) two cover system in Different Schemes. Registered Forest Contractors under of Territorial Forest Division Raichur (Registered in the Year 2024-25) are eligible for Tender Works. Tender From 19-04-2025 to 28-04-2025 4.00 Pm.

Technical Bids open on 29-04-2025 and Financial Bid opening on 02-05-2025 at 4.00 Pm.

More Details available on the notice board. Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/33/KSMCA/33/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/TS-2/TND/2025-26/208 Date : 17/04/2025

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Construction of cc road and drain in sc oni at Adaki, construction of cc road at Adaki Tanda, Construction of cc road and drain in sc oni at Jakanpalli, Construction of cc road and drain at Jakanpalli Tanda, Construction of cc road and drain in sc oni at Raghapur, Construction of cc road and drain in sc oni at Munkanpalli, Construction of cc road and drain in sc oni at Rudravaram, Construction of bus stand at SN Tanda, Construction of BT road from SN Tanda to PWD road at SN Tanda, Construction of road at Ramling Tanda, Construction of cc road and drain from harijan Seenu house to Husenappa house at Hayyal village in Sedam taluka. **Indent No. RDPR/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT14006**, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB for the year 2024-25**, 3) Amount put to tender: **Indent No.14006 Rs. 84,93,923.52**, 4) Class of Contractor: Class-III& above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **17-04-2025 to 02-05-2025 upto 1.00 PM**, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Rs.1,70,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **17-04-2025 to 02-05-2025 upto 1.00 PM**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **03-05-2025 After 1.00 PM,** 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **05-05-2025 After 11.00 AM**, 11) Period of Completion: 5 Months including Mansoon, 12) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 13) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/48/KSMC&A/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Phone No.:9448994705 **Email:** gmpurc@cescmysore.org **Website:** www.cescmysore.org

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ/ಪ್ರ.ವ್ಯ/ಸ.ಪ್ರ.ವ್ಯ(ಖ)/ಸ.ಪ್ರ.ವ್ಯ(ಖ)–1/2025–26/1778 **Date:** 19-04-2025

e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal Only)

Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation is inviting e-Auction bidding from eligible bidders for the sale and disposal of Scraped Distribution Transformers in 18 divisions and scraped Power Transformers of various capacity and sub-station materials in 33/11 kV sub-stations on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' in various stores of CESC jurisdiction. The store details are as below:

Sl.No.	Division	Contact No. of Store Officer	Sl.No.	Division	Contact No. of Store Officer
1	N.R.Mohalla	9448994715	10	Sakaleshpura	9480810365
2	V.V.Mohalla	9448994842	11	Holenarasipura	9449598598
3	Nanjangudu	9448994718	12	Channarayapattana	9449598520
4	Hunsur	9449598554	13	Arasikere	9449598544
5	K.R.Nagara	9448283391	14	Mandya	8277889833
6	Madikeri	9449598541	15	Madduru	9449598525
7	Kollegala	9480841185	16	Pandavapura	9449598596
8	Chamarajanagara	9449598542	17	K.R.Pete	8277883811
9	Hassan	9449598597	18	Nagamangala	9480816902

The details of quantity etc., and regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **22-04-2025**. For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: **1912**

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/73/2025-26
Sd/-
General Manager (Procurement),
CESC, Mysuru.

Classifieds

thehinduads.com

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BUSINESS

BUSINESS HIGH Class family seeks match for their 1998–born daughter. She's well–educated and beautiful. Caste No Bar. Class match is a must. Kindly connect. Neha (080–69129253)

COSMOPOLITAN

ALLIANCES INVITED from Well Educated Hindu Grooms for a Doctor, Neurosurgeon, MBBS, DrNB, 31, Fair, Slim and Affluent. Contact: Sridhar, Dubai +971507744192

HANDSOME AND well educated boy from affluent family, India/abroad, sought for Keralite Nair girl, 25 years, pretty, modern, graduate, 165 cm, school/college in USA/UK. Call: +971507744192

DIVORCEE

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR MD Psychiatry 39/165 Punarpoosam/ Mithunam seeks groom from same community less than 44. Engineer/ Doctors Ct: 7358303928

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 37, 159cm, UK–educated, Dubai–based professional from progressive, Army family. Seeks mature, compatible partner. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

TELUNGU CHETTIAR, 29/158, BE civil, Trivandrum, divorcee,seeks educated grooms without child.caste no bar.contact:9633149393.

DOCTOR

MS GENERAL surgery, BC Tamil, Hindu Fair 27, 175 cm, Good Looking, Seeks suitable understanding Tall Good Looking Handsome Teetotaller. Respond with Biodata, Horoscope and Photo. PH no. 7200365364

26/169, SURGEON, Fair, Slim, Beautiful, Parents – Chettiar/Brahmin, IT/Gynae, Chennai, seeks affluent, handsome, PG (clinical) groom CNB 9841056625

Hindu Naidu 28 years Girl MD Pediatrics Final year settled in Mysore. Ph. No. 9535652971.

Hindu, 25Y doing MS (ENT) Chennai. Seeks Doctor Grooms. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9677199925.

REDDY 34/165CM MBBS, MS Seeks Suitable Groom from Chennai / Dubai / Singapore CNB 8925640111

MUDHALIYAR 26Y Fair MBBS Seeks Doctors or Any Suitable Groom Chennai or Any Places.Cast No Bar:7358638363

Fair, Smart, Pretty, cultured homely Doctor Girl 35/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Reputed Hospital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala based in Chennai. Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for PG Doctor & Engineer grooms from good families. 98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ENGLISH

Nair Girl, 31/160, Anizham, MSc, Upper middle class, British citizen, Senior Economist in UK Govt, love music, dance & travel, high moral values, Seeking Boy Professionally well Established in UK with similar values and career aspirations. Cont: 9495554891

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

CHRISTIAN NADAR 29 years , RBI Grade B officer seeks suitable groom - AIS / GOI / IT / Doctors / Business. Contact: 94445 43920 / 94453 66732

HINDI

BR SANADHYA Girl 13.10.1995, 3:00 PM, 173 cm MBA wkg Manager– DHL, Delhi 18 LPA, Indore based family. Brahmin Boy preferred. M–9826023553

KANNADA

HINDU BRIDE 30/161 B.E., LL.B. (Hons.) Advocate Swathi Thulam Vokkaliga Gowda seeks Virtuous Independent working Groom from an Ethical Family and settled in Chennai. Email: mailgpsr@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

NAIR KIRYATHIL girl 92 born/168, Atham,native palakkad,MBBS,Chennai settled,seeks suitable Nair Non IT professional grooms. E–mail: indigor.55@gmail.com

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

MALAYALAM

NAMBIAR GIRL, 29yrs B.com, BL (Hons.), LLM, practicing Advocate at High Court, from a reputed family at Thalassery and settled in Chennai, seeks proposals from well educated professionals, preferably working at Chennai, with good family values. Contact No: 9895147168

NAIR GIRL 24/150 cm MBA Finance IT testing Visagam - native Palakad Chennai settled seeks suitable Nair / Menon / Pillai boy. Ph: 80150 11536

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Professionally qualified **Girl, 29/163 (LLB & LLM** abroad), Ashwathy, employed with an int'l organisation (EU). Accomplished and charming. Affluent Family (Malayali) settled in Delhi. Parents seek proposals from Hindu highly educated and well settled professionals.

Ph: 8800368536

NRI

23–YR–OLD TAMIL Iyer girl, raised in the USA with a business degree and currently working in NY, seeks a well–qualified groom with a similar cultural background, professionally settled in NY. Contact–ramanaguru1879@gmail.com

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN 28/160 M.S,Speech Therapist in USA,seeks suitable groom working in USA/Canada. Ct:9940251659

CHRISTIAN, CSI, Age 31, MBA, HR at Chennai, interested in emigrating. Contact: 8138900530

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 22, MBA, Upper middle class family, Need a guy who follow the principles of Islam. Call: 8138900575

✔ TAMIL MUSLIM girl 38 yrs, seeks employed, qualified, Unmarried Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779

CHRISTIAN, PROTESTANT, MS, Software Engineer at MNC, Family income 1 crore, Ready to relocate. Contact: 8138900557

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA startup aged 26. End time message. 8939250457

PARENTS SEEKING qualified & financially stable practising Muslim below 35 for 30 yrs divorcee, Phd working in Abu Dhabi. 9940014700

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS MD doctor, Chennai, seeks christian groom, CT–9500188067

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Homely, B.Tech., PGDM (XLRI), 25 Years, Startup, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Well qualified and employed Grooms with clean habits Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

RC, CNB, 26yrs, M.Sc, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9360732728/9962121959

CHRISTIAN BE 35/164cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa seeks good looking groomworking with SWE/Professional in USA. CNB. CT: 81488 25673 Brokers Excuse

RC 40/PHD /Scientist in USA seeks unmarried Christian groom working in USA. gladia@gmail.com, 9840715492

SEEKING SC Groom in PSU/Govt. Officer cadre for bride 32/146 working in PSU Bank.Ct.8939214350

MBA IIM, B.Tech Naidu 163/ Nov 89, Product Manager, Bangalore 30L/pa seeks well settled grooms earning 30L & above. Working Bangalore/ Hyderabad/ Abroad. CNB. Ct: 9176250276

DOCTOR BY profession, Mom by passsion! Divorced obstetrician 31 yrs from affluent family with a lively 7– year old son Seeks a partner in love, laughter, & life! Looking for a genuine Hindu companion (caste no bar). Kindness, empathy, & sense of humor welcome. Willingness to accept son essential. Whatsapp Number– 98417 00191. Timings (3 to 5 pm)

HINDU NADAR, B.TECH, MBA, 26yrs, Elite Business Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9962121959/9360732728

HINDU, NADAR, Age 26, MD, Doctor, Rich and Affluent family, Looking for a nadar doctor Groom. Ct: 8137003550

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 26 , M.Sc, Banking Professional, Family doing business, Expect a man from decent family background. Ct: 8138900316

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR – Dr. Ramya MS Retina Surgeon Age 32, Looking for similar degree or any post graduate – Ct: 9840038499, 9600227299

HINDU NADAR girl, BC, Tamilnadu, ME, age 30, DOB 4/8/1994, Ht 167 cms, wt. 62 kg, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, doing 1st year PhD in IIT Kharagpur, Calcutta. Upper middle class seeks any BC, well qualified and settled groom. Ct: 96265 15511

CASTE NO bar, 26yrs, MBBS, MD, Preferred Doctors & Civil Services Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 25 BE/MBA 164cm, Working, Good Look well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB Ct.8778514465/7200866346

TAMIL VISHWAKARMA, M.Tech, Employed in IT–MNC, Bangalore, 25 yrs 9months, 163 cms, 18 LPA, Star Pooratathi, well educated family, seeks suitable groom. Ph & Whatsapp: 9445862897. Mail senthiltasl@gmail.com.

ADIDRAVIDAR AGE 26, BE Pvt Salary 40000 / Well Settled Wants Suitable Groom. 8122289871/ 9444139323

HINDU DIVORCEE, 44 yrs, Very fair, Good Looking, PQ, No child, Seeks qualified groom CNB. 9080169045

HINDU SC AD, 33, BE, MBA, Employed, Slim, Good Looking, Chennai BasedElite Family , Seeking well Educated,Well Placed Groom From Elite Family.Cast no Bar. Ct: 96771 13040.

SOZHIYA VELLALAR bridegroom, teetotaler 28-32 yrs employed, doctor / lawyer / banker / teacher, must be from a good family background for a 27 year old bride postgraduate lawyer Star Thiruvathurai, vegetarian. Send horoscope to trk.madhavan@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR a groom below 41yrs for divorced Hindu Nadar graduate getting 1–L Pm in a govt job 9443156344

HINDU, 24 Manai Chettiyar, 24 Yrs, B.Com, MBA, Administrative Professional, Looking for Any Chettiyar Groom. Contact: 8138900652

HINDU, MARAVAR, Age 31, B.Tech, IT Professional, Income 40 Lakhs, Looking for a graduated Groom. Contact: 8137003549

HINDU, YADAVA, 31 Yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai, Family doing business. Call: 8137003548

RICH MUDALIYAR, 25yrs, M.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, BE, 1.5 Lakhs/pm, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9841329471

CASTE NO Bar, 40yrs, B.Tech,MS, Industrialist Business Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR (CNB): 29/ V.Fair, MBBS, MS,Doctor, Pvt.Hosp, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom – Doctor/ Eng – 8925019776

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair & Beautiful, B. Tech, MS (UK), Textile Business, Chennai, Elite Family, seeks groom – Business / Abroad – 9962530015

SOZHIA VELLALAR Slim fair 26/170 BE, 18 LPA, Seeking professional groom from Tamil family. Ct: 9025400750

✔ CHETTIAR 37 yrs 157cms M.S (USA) Well educated family seeks suitable groom from same or equal community. Ct.9994338914

✔ SUITABLE ALLIANCE invited for fair, slim and good looking tamil lady engineer, Valluvan, 42 years, Government Job Trivandrum (willing to relocate) from good looking, employed and educated persons. Caste negotiable. Email biodata to timeword45@gmail.com

HINDU MARUTHUVAR CA Auditor MNC 32 / 158cm fair legally divorced CNB Chennai seeks groom. Ct 9600055160

SEEKING WELL qualified groom for my daughter (Hindu – Mudaliar) 28/ 170 cm, UX Designer / 15LPA . Ph.no : 9486380013

HINDU/ SC/ Tamil/ March 93/ BE/ IRS–IT Seeks Groom from IAS and Allied Services / MD,MS, SS–9042261465

AD, PR CHR, 29, PG Doctor, 14 L PA seeks suitable Doctor/ Group 1 Officer Groom. Ct: 94425 22322

SENGUNTHAR 24YRS, 150 cms Mirugashisham BE Software Engineer in Chennai seeks a well–educated (B.E) groom with clean habits, working in Chennai. 9952954930/8668190730

HINDU GIRL 38, MSc Phd Scientist, working abroad, caste no bar. Malappuram. 9447257594, 9946492247

HINDU SC/AD 30 M.B.B.S, fair star-Ashwini well settled Chennai seeks prof qualified Doctors, Govt officers and engineers from same community. Ph:9840210047 / 9080281136

DEVENDRAKULAVELALAR 26/157 MBBS UK GMC Regd Seeks Suitable Doctor Groom. Send BHP. Ct: sams7796@gmail.com

TAMIL

CASTE NO bar. Chennai based Affluent Good looking Mudaliar Girl 29, is seeking for a Groom from a good family background and family values. Ct : 89258 19448

SC/AD/B.SC,MBA DOB:1980 Bride Aswini seeks Suitable Qualified Employed Bride Groom. 8248933352/9943629339

IYER VADAMAL Avittam Bhratwajam 31/170 Chennai B.Tech MBA (NMIMS) 12L/pa seeks suitable upper class Tamil Iyer, max 2 yrs 12L/pa. 9176829762

BRAHMIN VADAMA parents invites alliance for Good looking young widow in mid forties /MSc / 163/ Fair / well settled entrepreneur, no encumbrance from Chennai based doctors, engineers , professionals of similar stature(subsect no bar) Brother : 7416442737

HINDU SC, 25yrs/165cms, MBBS, Preparing for PG, seeks Doctor Groom from Reupted Family Ct: 86107 78322.

SC AD 37yrs, BE Software Engineer, 1.40Lks/month, TCS, Chennai. Never married, seeks Grooms Age 37-40 yrs. Ct: 99521 47216 / 88380 34943

IYER BHARADWAJA 28/153 MS (Engineering) Punarpoosam (3) MNC USA Seeks Suitable Tamil Iyer Groom between 28-33 years Working in USA. 7639702929.

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

PILLAI, 34, 175 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Madurai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community from any location. Contact: 6366448343

DEVAR, 34, 181 cms, Doctor, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

KAMMA NAIDU, 27, 183 cms, Business, MS, Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 30, 180 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

VANNIYAR, 27, 160 cms, Entrepreneur, Msc. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLLA GOUNDER, 33, 163 cms, MD, Doctor. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 26, 152 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN RC, 36, 163 cms, MSc, Software Professional. Lives in Dubai. Father is a Retired employed. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from Dubai. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

GROOM WANTED

WELL SETTLED SENGUNTHA MUDHALIYAR FAMILY LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE MATCH FOR THEIR GOOD LOOKING DAUGHTER, DOCTOR M.S (OG) OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGIST, WORKING SURGEON AT PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN TIRUPUR

D.OB. MARCH 1991, UTHARAM (SUTHA JADHAGAM)

Expectation - UG/PG Doctors, well settled Business family, Auditors (CA), from mudhaliyar community in and around Tirupur, Coimbatore & Erode.

98947-40448 / 98433-44970

✔ Groom 45-48 Years for Affluent Vadama Tamil Bride, Swathi, Vadoola. Comfortably endowed with own house. Please respond with key information and Photo to WhatsApp # 98410 26998.

Muslim Girl 22/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai Well to do Family in Chennai. Ph: 9445556810

TELUGU

RICH REDDIYAR, 30yrs, M.Tech, Running Own colleges in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 30yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

SEEKING NAIDU groom, well educated born not after 1987 for a smart research scholar born August 1990 hailing from a respectable family. Contact: 9790908109

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

SEEKING GROOM Chettiar / Naidu for a religious home loving fair complexion divorcee born 1990 with a girl child 7 years from a respectable family. Contact: 9840091267

BRIDES WANTED

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

IT SENIOR Director, Chennai MNC, Hindu, SC, AD, 39, BE, Veg, Unmarried.Tamil origin, Fluent in Hindi & English.Seeking Hindu, Unmarried, Veg only Bride.Caste No Bar. Mob:7871691025

COSMOPOLITAN

37YRS OLD keralite PSB mngr with bladder disorder. Less chance for s*xual life. Ready for IVF for conceiving.Brides with health issues are welcome. Religion caste or language no bar. 88910 82891

SMART, HANDSOME, 37, 175cm, MEng (US), in Big Tech ($400K+), broad–minded S.Indian family. Seeks warm, compatible US–based bride. Language/caste no bar. Call or WA 9345634365.

NAIR, 41, BE, MS(US), Chennai, Chadayam (Shudha Jatakam) worked in US(15yrs) seeks good fmly educated bride, pref PG, from Chn/B'lore. Contact: 9940573281, 9840378555

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX Malayali boy, 29/177, Kerala High Court Advocate. Seeks any Christian denomination. 9400072152.

NAIR PARENTS EKM seeks alliance for son age 45/175cm Slim, Star Chithira, B.Arch, Ex Army officer, MBA Oxford University, working in UK. Interested parents of well qualified suitable girl, Please Contact : 9605050822

NRI

TAMIL HINDU 54 yrs, 173cm BSc, MBA, IT Proff, Australia, Divorce. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: 61422909407

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Handsome, Clean habits, B.Tech., PGDM, 28 Years, MNC, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Homely, Well qualified and employed Brides from good families Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

VANNIYAR, 42, BA, Divorcee, No child, Seeks suitable brides, any cast Ct. 9094381898, 9551445551.

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 31yrs Dr MD Pathology Kovai Medical Centre, Coimbatore. Mob:9842221324 (M), 9894186469 (F)

MUDHALIAR 26 BE 182cm Business / Reputed Builder Chennai seeks High Profile Fair Mudhaliar / Pillai Bride Ct Geetham 9884858014

SBI Manager 32/168 BE Aero Inter caste only son Rich seeks Doctors / Govt. Officers. CT: 96003-90006.

PERMANENT RESIDENT in United Kingdom, PG qualified in U.K.and working in U.K.as software engineer seeks doctor/engineer/C.A bride living in India or abroad from decent family. Hindu B. C.,33yrs,178cm,68 Kg. Contact parents in Chennai 9841294930

CHENNAI, MUDALIAR Cast Nobar, PhD, InnoctDivorcee 41yrs GM Chess Govt 2Lac/mth.Hindu Edu Girl: 9884171419

HINDU, CASTE no bar, age 31, Doing business, Income 40 Lakhs, Upper middle class family. Ct 8137003551

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, Divorced without children, MBA, Business, Income 1 Crore, Well settled family, Interested can call: 8138009214

HINDU, NAICKER, 28 Yrs, B.E studied, Engineer, Income 30 Lakhs, Looking for a Bride from good family background. Contact: 8138009139

MUDALIYAR, 32/180, Rishabam/Kiruthigai, M.Com, MBA, 1.75Lpm seeks Bride from Decent Family. 9841233083.

NAIDU, 38, BE, MBA, Bank Officer, Seeks Bride from Naidu Family From Tamilnadu. Ph: 9443172955

HINDU NADAR, 31yrs, BE, 2 Lakhs pm, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9841329471

NAIDU, MAY 2000 born, MBBS MD Seeks MBBS MD Studying Bride. Contact: 94430 50715, 94879 00758

RE–MARRIAGE MUDALIYAR 58 Govt Service own house Seek bride 45–50 yrs Any OC / BC. Ct: 89392 60200

MUDALIAR, 37/172.5, BE, 25 LPA working as a Software Consultant in reputed MNC in Bangalore. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured, educated & traditional family. Ph: 9994517104

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180 B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2Lpm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220984182

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

TAMIL VISWAKARMA, 39/179cm, Chithirai, Kanni, B.E, MBA., Unmarried seeks educated Partner. Caste no bar. Ct: 9944097021

BE, MS/ PhD-IIT-M, Hindu/31/Fair, MNC BLR, BCs, Contact - 9840161742

Hindu 36 years SCA, Divorcee Looking for Never Married Bride. Contact: 8525852104.

MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age–40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land. Sub Caste ok. 9677622641

ENGINEER, 55/183, unmarried, own company, Bangalore, seeks graduate lady below 50. Mob 86989 66952.

TAMIL

SC, CHRISTIAN, Age 29, M.Tech, Engineer, DLF at Chennai, salary Rs. 75000 pm, seeks suitable Graduate Bride Ct:8939177665

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 28, B.E, MBA, Risk Analyst at MNC Bank, Income 20 Lakhs, well settled family. Call: 8138900537

HINDU, MUTHARAIYAR, Age 34, B.E completed, Engineer, Family doing business, interested can call: 8138900523

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 27, Diploma, Graphic Designer at Thanjavur, caste no bar. Contact: 8138901171

MUDALIAR 34 Divorce, ME, 22L PA 178cm Smartlook well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/7200866346

CASTE NO Bar, 27yrs, B.Tech, Running Own business in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

AGE – 48 , Hindu Nadar , Actor , Dowry free, fair bride preferred , PH NO – 9840954343 ,9840191881

GAVARA NAIDU Well settled in Chennai 29years/ 165 cm/ ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Buisiness, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram seeks suitable Bride, Call 9841097110

PROF. QUALIFICATION in India, Canada And UK, working as Senior Fin. Manager in Canada drawing CAD 12000/–p.m, Tamil Iyer 43, First marriage, looking for graduate girl below 33, from Tamil Iyer, pl. send horoscope with photo to braman1951@yahoo.co.in/ 9940025365

WELL SETTLED, Hindu, Graduate,Age 56 Years, Seeks Life Partner. Chennai Only. Gmail: dhamur1478@gmail.com

BRAHMIN IYENGAR 46yrs, 1st marriage salary 1,25,000/- monthly in pondicherry seeking brahmin bride divorcee or widow without child broker excuse Ct: 9790864363

TAMIL MUDALIAR boy 1994 Born/180cm / Working in Newyork/ income 3 cr and above is looking for a Match (080–69070600)

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, 5.5Ft, based in KK Nagar, Chennai. B.E, M.S. (USA), Working as Senior Analyst at Tech Mahindra, Chennai. Belongs to a very affluent family, with clean habits. Seeking a well–educated, good–natured bride. Contact: 9176140575

THEVAR D.C.E, B.E Site Er 9L PA 30, 6ft Chithirai Own Houses, Land 10Acre Req Thevar Graduate 9786282294

CASTE NO Bar. Good looking Mudaliar Boy 30 / 174 from an affluent Business Background seeking a fair & pleasant looking girl. Ct 8925819448

TAMIL IYER boy, 26/185, handsome, Bharadwaja Gothram, B.Tech & MS from top US University, with clean habits, 40 LPA, B'lore based MNC IT firm, with mild vision loss seeks suitable alliance. Contact 9901802909

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion.

CT: 93842 76066

TAMIL

HINDU – BE/33/170/SWE/Sc/ayillam–katagam. Educated and well settled family in Bangalore. Looking for a suitable Bride from the same / other caste. Contact No:9845401461.

Looking for a well educated, slim, fair Bride from a decent Tamil Family for Hindu Sozhiya Vellalar Pillai, Post Graduate Engineer, fair, aged 26 years, height 175 cm, Non-Vegetarian. Engineer in a Multinational Company at Bangalore. Please WhatsApp biodata to 9490956857.

God Fearing Rich Family, Vanniyar Padayatchi Settled in Tiruchirappalli invites Proposal for their 2nd Son, Rasi-Viruchigam, Star-Kettai, Age 30, Fair, 175 cm, Rahu Ketu Dosam BE Civil. Owns a Luxury 4 Star Hotel (Hotel Vijayarani) Opp. Govt. Hospital, Trichy, adorns as MD of the Hotel and also Constructs his Own Apartment (Builder). Besides Many Assets. NO BAD HABITS Caste No Bar

Seeks Suitable Girl with Rahu Ketu Dosham

94431 24712

TELUGU

REDDIYAR 34/185 Kettai/Viruchigam MCA IT 2.20L pm Seeks Bride from decent family Subsect NoBar 9655594878

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, BE, well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

RICH NAIDU, 28yrs, ME, Own constructions and Builders in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

NAIDU 28/180 Handsome,MBBS,MS,Doctor Siims Hospital,2000000. PA,Afflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629,9043987029

Hindu Devanga Chettiyar 35yrs BE., IT Chennai. Rs.7LPA. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 97899 80192 / 73583 22391.

URDU

URDU MUSLIM 34 yrs, IT Professional from Trichy, working in Bangalore, Salary 1.5 lakhs per month, issueless divorcee, seeks suitable issueless girl. 98410 60600

25–YEAR OLD, fair, religious, IIM graduate of 182cm height, who works as IT Consultant, seeks a religious, good–looking, & well–educated Muslima bride. We follow salaf aqeedah and dont practice dargah/shirk. If interested, send bio to: nikkah4.2c@gmail.com and fill out form in link: https://shorturl.at/sI55a

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

SC/AD/B.E, DOB: 1982, Rohini Part–3, Bride Groom Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride. 9841708258 / 8939357946

IYER TAMIL Divorcee 50yrs SWE MNC Chennai Seeks Minimum Graduate without Issues. Caste No Bar. 9841942915

DIVORCEE

BRIDE WANTED

A 34-year-old B.E. Civil educated well-off divorcee (within 6 months) bridegroom from Nagarathar caste, who has been running his father's business successfully in Coimbatore for 40 years, needs a bride. Other caste no bar.

Ph : 95009 87875

DOCTOR

MUDALIYAR 29, MBBS, MS, Seeks Very Kind Bride Doctor Don't Hope in Cast, Jathagam. Ct : 78240 23030

GAVARA 28, MBBS, Business, 5.10" Smart Good Looking, Poorattadhi 4, Meenam Well Settled seeks MBBS, beautiful Naidu Bride. Cont: 9941944443, E–mail: subburayanthamba@gmail.com

WANTED BRIDE

HINDU Family Kerala, for **MBBS Student,** 3rd Year Final at **MALAYSIA.** Age : 25 years. Height 173 cm looking MBBS, **Professionals** or **Reputed Family Girls 21 to 24 years.**

Mob (Wapp) 98471 50067.

TELUGU

NAIDU 24/160, Beautiful, MBBS,Doctor, Siims Hospital, 800000. PA,Afflunet Family,CNB.9043991629,9043987029

Hindu Naidu, MBBS, M.D, 34/160cm, Simmam/ Magam, seeks suitable Doctor, CA Groom. Ct: 80722 14843

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM 29/168 MS (MBA) US IT, California seeks US based professional groom. Whatsapp: 9840124476

TAMIL

LOOKING FOR RC Christian Bride Working/Studying/Citizen in USA for H1B Visa groom working in Texas, B.Tech(CSE) 30 yrs/172cm Mob: 8898987699

CSI NADAR UnMaried 53/174 MPhil GovtOficer 30L; 52/170 PhD Prof House@Chennai Seek FC/BC 1st Mariage around 40 Educate Profession 9444514097

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 29, completed B.E, Doing Business With family at Chennai, Income 10 Lakhs, Looking for any muslim. Contact: 8138009140

TAMIL MUSLIM, Age 26, B.Com, M.Sc, Managing Director at Chennai, Rich and Affluent family. Call: 8138900312

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 28 MS USA seeks same community bride with H1B Visa, MS student or from any country Willing to relocate to USA 9382266099

MUSLIM 31/172 MA, LLB (Hons) Affluent family, Chennai seeks suitable bride from respectable family. Whatsapp biodata 9884290303/9487587614

MUSLIM, 38 YRS, 168/78, MBA, doing Business, seeking Educated bride, Avoid Brokers, Ct: 9843958876

TAMIL MUSLIM 25 yrs BE (PCE) 178cm Asst Manager in Chennai 12LPA seeking suitable bride willing to settle in abroad. Ph:88380 43242

URDU

Muslim Girl 22/162cm BE(CSE) Very Fair Selected in MNC Chennai Well to do Family in Chennai. Ph: 9445556810

SMU PARENTS from reputed & respectable family well settled & established in Dubai/ Kochi/ Chennai seeks groom from decent family for their daughter BBA /30yrs/151cm/ Very Fair/ pious / humble / homely WhatsApp: 8089023420 Call: 8848880792

B.ARCH 26/ 163 Fair Hijabi Chennai seeks well educated well settled Namazi from Tamilnadu. Ct: 9791216228

PERSONAL

MISSING

MISSING

K. S. SRIKANTH
(AGE: 51)
Mentally unstable person, Missing since Jul-2024
Wearing Brown T-Shirt & Blue pant
Anyone giving information will be suitably rewarded
If you find him please take a photo and immediately contact Mr. Anand
97107 28526 or nearest Police Station

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

MORGAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED
C-2 SIPCOT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX CUDDALORE – 607005

Old Machinery Sale Notice

Coating Machine, Six Colour Flexo Printing Machine, PVC Packing Machine (Toffee Packing Type), Conveyors, Packing Machines, Chilling Unit, Environment Chamber, Sleeving Machine, RP Machine, Kolsite Winder, Fly Catchers, Elgi Air Compressor, Windsor's Winder Nip Rollers, Grooved Sleeve of Outer Extruder, Barrel of Outer Extruder (Old)

Interested parties may please contact Mr.P.Palani, Factory Incharge Ct: 86677 94129

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

PKF Sridhar & Santhanam LLP

Requires:

- **CAs / CMAs / CIAs for Internal Audit and Consulting practice**
- **Senior Administration Manager for the firm at Chennai and Regional Administration Officer at Bengaluru. Retired Service Personnel would be preferred.**
- **Executive Assistant to Chairman – Smart, Young, Tech savvy. Willing to travel**

Apply to: venkatesan.hr@pkfindia.in

Panel led by Home Minister set up on NICE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A seven-member Cabinet sub-committee headed by Home Minister G. Parameshwara has been constituted to look into the future of the Bangalore-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC) project being executed by the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE).

The other member of the panel are: Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa, Industries Minister M.B. Patil, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi, and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, said a notification.

JD(S) seeks all-party meeting to discuss survey report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) on Saturday urged the State government to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the data contained in the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report submitted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

"Religious leaders, intellectuals, and representatives from all communities should also be invited for consultation. A mutually agreeable solution could be arrived at by achieving consensus," JD (S) youth president Nikhil Kumaraswamy told presspersons here.

Stating that the party was not opposed to the survey, he said: "We are only questioning the authenticity of the figures. The data appears to be far from the truth. The process of the survey has not been systematic."

He said: "There is no clarity on whose households were surveyed and under what criteria. The entire report needs to be re-evaluated. The all-party meeting can deliberate on the report."

Mr. Nikhil said that though the government claims that it is the socio, economic and educational survey, the data pertaining to communities and their educational or economic backwardness is yet to be released. "Why was caste statistics alone released?."

He also accused Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of "sowing seeds of hatred" among communities through the release of the survey data.

Many workers to breach ESI income ceiling as minimum wages set to rise

Currently, ₹21,000 per month is the fixed income ceiling to be eligible for Employees' State Insurance; Karnataka has written to the Centre seeking its revision to ₹30,000

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The revision of minimum wages for over two crore workers across scheduled employment in Karnataka – the draft of which was notified last week – will put a large number of workers outside the ambit of the Employees' State Insurance (ESI), as they are set to breach the ₹21,000 per month income ceiling fixed as eligibility criteria.

The State government, however, is pushing the Centre for revision of the eligibility ceiling to ₹30,000 per month that will cover most workers, if done.

Though the notified wage revision for 100 scheduled employment, including the 18 that were added in recent years, has brought cheer among the workforce, it is expected to add to the woes of a section of workers who might lose out on medical, sickness, maternity, and disability benefits on account of the ceiling.

On April 10, the Labour Department notified the draft notification of minimum wages proposing the monthly range from ₹19,319.36 for unskilled labourers in Zone 3 to a maximum of ₹34,225.42 for highly skilled employees in thermal stations. Across industries in Zone 1 (Bengaluru and surrounding areas), the minimum wage for a highly skilled worker is ₹31,114.02 per month.

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State government is obliged to revise the wages at least once in five years.FILE PHOTO

Those earning above ₹21,000 per month will become ineligible for ESI benefits. For the physically challenged persons, the ceiling is ₹25,000 per month.

Acknowledging the issue, Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *The Hindu* that the State government wrote to the Centre over a year ago to increase the ceiling limit to ₹30,000 a month. He said that he had written to Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje.

"I have written thrice already. I will go and meet the Minister. I have written to all MPs on the issue."

Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State government is obliged to revise the wages at least once in five years, and the last wage revision in the State in the range of 5% to 10% was undertaken in 2022 for about 34 scheduled employment. The latest proposal, which will now be considered by Minimum Wages Advisory Board after receiving objection, is upto 70% raise from the current salaries.

Mr. Lad argued, "The minimum wages in Karnataka have been framed scientifically and are based on the Supreme Court's judgement in the Raptakos Brett case. It has been calculated based on the cost of food and clothing required for a family of four, including two children below 15. The wages have been fixed after a study of eight months. Just because the Centre does not want to raise the ceiling, revision of minimum wages here cannot be held back. In fact, independent studies undertaken in Bengaluru have shown that a family requires about ₹35,000 a month for survival."

Full medical care provided

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), full medical care is provided to the insured person and family members from the day of entering insurable employment, and that there is no ceiling on expenditure on the treatment. Even those retired and permanently disabled insured persons and their spouses are eligible for medical care on payment of a token annual premium premium of ₹120.

Agriculture Department sets sowing target for kharif at 82.5 lakh hectares

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

With above normal rainfall forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the upcoming monsoon season, the Department of Agriculture has set a target of sowing on 82.5 lakh hectares during the 2025 kharif season.

The department has set the target of sowing paddy, jowar, ragi, maize, bajra, wheat, millets, and cereals on 58.77 lakh hectares during the kharif season for achieving food production of 111.41 lakh tonnes.

While oilseeds will be sown on 8.62 lakh hectares, three commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, and tobacco) will be sown on 15.12 lakh hectares, according to officials in the Agriculture Department.

For the entire year 2025-26, the department has set a target of sowing foodgrain crops on 85.21 lakh hectares for achieving production of 148.48 lakh tonnes. It has a target to bring 114.4 lakh hectares under crops, including oilseeds and commercial, during the entire year. The entire year consisted of kharif, rabi, and summer crops.

As per the second estimates, the State has recorded food production of 135.32 lakh tonnes during all seasons of the year 2024-25.

The food production during the kharif season was 113.05 lakh tonnes while it was 22.27 lakh tonnes during the rabi season.

A file photo of a farmer working on his field during the kharif season.

In preparation for the kharif season, the department held a workshop for a large number of its employees at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, on April 16. Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy inaugurated the workshop and directed officials from the taluk level to the Raitha Samparka Kendra to ensure timely supply of seeds and fertilizers to farmers.

Officials hoped that premonsoon showers would help farmers harvest two crops in the year. Pre-monsoon showers in April and May would provide many benefits, including recharge groundwater and would bring down dependency on borewells, and reduce energy consumption.

Rains during the last couple of days would also help farmers to prepare land for sowing, the officials said.

Karnataka bags award in crop insurance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Agriculture bagged first rank in the implementation of Pradhan Manthri Fasal Bima Yojane (PMFBY). The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare mentioned that the first rank was awarded to Karnataka in the category of large States for the overall performance in implementing PMFBY for the year 2023-24.

In the district category, Haveri and Koppal districts have been honoured in recognition of adoption of noteworthy innovations and initiatives in the implementation of the PMFBY during 2023-24. The award was presented on Friday at Thiruvananthapuram.

BC forum says opposition to caste census stems from bias

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Backward Classes Forum president K.S. Shivaram decried the opposition to the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) by political leaders of dominant castes and said that errors, if any, could be rectified.

Speaking to presspersons here on Saturday, Mr. Shivaram said the report was scientifically validated and there was further scope to rectify the errors, if any. But to take a position to oppose the report in entirety was not only flawed by indicated a bias, he added.

Mr. Shivaram said at the heart of the survey was ensuring justice for all communities, adding that the government has prepared the report to ensure social justice even to the most marginalised section of every community. "But only a few upper caste people are opposing it for political reasons," said Mr. Shivaram.

Senior Congress legislator Shamanur Shivashankarappa, who is also the president of Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha, came under flak for his stance against the caste survey and his reported statement that if implemented, it could lead to a backlash.

"Let Mr. Shivashankarappa win elections solely on the votes of the Lingayat community if he was confident of the numbers," Mr. Shivaram said.

"Those who claim injustice has been done to their community should study the history of this State and ascertain for themselves the number of Chief Ministers, Ministers, and other political representatives who have emerged from their communities. They should compare it with how much political representation the backward class communities have received so far," said Mr. Shivaram.

Mr. Shivaram claimed that a majority of the population of the State comprised the backward classes and hence seeking higher political representation for them was not wrong.

He said the survey covers the socio-economic conditions of various communities and there are economically weaker section of people in the Vokkaliga, Lingayat, and Brahmin communities too and all of them deserved justice.

Yogesh, president of District Uppar Association, said the outrage against the report stems from the "inherent intolerance of the upper castes" towards a backward class leader who had become the Chief Minister for the second time.

Referring to the report, Mr. Yogesh, said it was 95% based on facts and errors can be reviewed and corrected. In this context, he claimed that though there are nearly 15 lakh to 20 lakh Uppar community members, the report pegs their population at 7.5 lakh and this should also be reviewed.

Ex-MLA Ramaswamy quits BJP, decides to work for environment conservation

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Former MLA and BJP leader A.T. Ramaswamy has quit the party, stating that he wishes to completely involve himself in environment conservation and agriculture. Mr. Ramaswamy, former MLA from Arkalgud in Hassan district, launched an organisation 'Parisarakkagi Naavu' on April 12.

Mr. Ramaswamy, in a letter on April 15 to BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, stated that he felt that environment conservation was more important than politics.

"Global warming has led to climate change. This change has caused floods, droughts, cyclones, and earthquakes. Water, air, and food have been polluted. Following deforestation, waterbodies are getting dry and the groundwater table is depleting. This is the time we should spread awareness on environment conservation. We will survive only if we can preserve the environment," he said.

Mr. Ramaswamy said that he had already conveyed his opinion to Mr. Vijayendra, while thanking the party president for his support.

Mr. Ramaswamy joined the BJP after resigning as Arkalgud MLA, ahead of the Assembly elections, on April 1, 2023. He was elected from the JD(S). Following differences with the party leaders in Hassan, he quit the JD(S) and formally joined the BJP in Delhi. Back in the 2000s, he headed the joint legislature committee on encroachments in Bangalore Urban district.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRIL), CENTRAL ZONE, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA-751007
Phone No. - (0674) -2571075, Fax No. - (0674)-2571075, E-mail ID - secz.dag@gov.in
"e"- procurement Notice No 942, Date-16.04.2025
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - EOI No:01/SE(A)/CZ/BBSR/e-PROC/2025-26

The Superintending Engineer(Agril),Central Zone,Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Director, Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha ,Bhubaneswar, invites **"Expression of Interest" (EOI) for Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for 2 x 60 TR Scroll Chillers and VRF System of 310 HP along with all associated equipment of HVAC system installed at KRUSHI BHAVAN, BHUBANESWAR** from the eligible reputed AC manufacturers/ or their authorized dealers/agency through e-procurement in ONLINE MODE only in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** as per the schedule below:

1. Name of the EOI: **"Expression of Interest" (EOI) for Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for 2 x 60 TR Scroll Chillers and VRF System of 310 HP along with all associated equipment of HVAC system installed at KRUSHI BHAVAN, BHUBANESWAR**
2. EOI DOCUMENT/Bid Cost :**Rs. 6,000/-**
3. Date & Time of availability of bid / EOI document in the portal :**19.04.2025 at 10.AM. to Dt.07.05.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.**
3. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal : **Dt.07.05.2025 at 5.00 P.M**
4. Date of submission of EOI documents in sealed cover: **Dt. 29.04.2025 10.A.M. to Dt. 07.05.2025 up to 5.00 P.M** (Working days) only.
5. Date & time of opening of online bids and hard copy/sealed cover : **Dt.08.05.2025 at 11.30 AM** & onwards
6. Date of Opening of Financial bid will be notified later on.
7. Place of submission of Sealed cover/ containing EOI Documents:: **O/O the Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Central Zone, Satya Nagar,Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751007**

NB. The AC Manufacturers/bidders have to participate in **ONLINE bidding only** in the e-Procurement website : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in with matching class DSC.** Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of EOI /other details of the EOI Document can also be seen in the said website. Authority reserves the right to reject/accept any or all of the EOI without assigning any reasons thereof. The bidders are required to visit the site of Krushibhawan, Bhubaneswar for physical verification of the HVAC System.

Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Central Zone, Bhubaneswar.
L-07: OIPR-01032/11/0002/2526

SECTION -1 : LETTER OF INVITATION
Office of the Commissioner,
BRAHMAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BRAHMAPUR, PIN -760001
RFP No.5561 Dt.16.04.2025
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
For
Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Drainage Master Plan and DPR for Storm Water Drainage System of Brahmapur Municipal Corporation, in the District of Ganjam, Odisha.

1. Proposals are invited to conduct the assignment and submit the deliverables from Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous Bodies / consulting firms that have requisite experience in preparation of drainage / pipeline / sewerage network plan and infrastructure DPR and to submit their RFP proposals (hard copy) in respect of the Project **"Providing Consultancy Services for preparation of Comprehensive Drainage Master Plan and DPR for Storm Water Drainage System of Brahmapur Municipal Corporation, in the district of Ganjam, Odisha"** (The earlier survey work done by the agency engaged by the BeMC shall have to be taken into account and assimilated with the intended, additional survey work ensuring congruity).
2. In accordance with the formats, terms and conditions of the RFP and on the basis of National Competitive bidding for the work detailed in the table given below. More del ils on the proposed details are provided at **Section-3 : Terms of Reference (Tor)** of the RFP Document. The firm is advised to examine carefully all instructions in the RFP Document.
3. The RFP will be available for download, at **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. All Bidder must submit a sum of Rs.11,800/- (Rupees Eleven thousand Eight Hundred only) towards the cost of the RFP Document in the form of Online Remittance. This is inclusive of GST and eligible amount as Bid Security by Online Remittance along with their Proposal as per the conditions outlined in this RFP.
4. A bidder / consultant will be selected under **Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** procedure as prescribed in the RFP Document in accordance with the procedures prescribed herewith circulated vide Office Memorandum **No.37323/F, Dated:30.11.2018** of Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha.
4. The proposal completes in all respect as specified in the RFP Document must be accompanied with the proof of remitting Bid Processing Fees & EMD failing which the bid will be rejected.
5. The complete RFP document can be viewed / downloaded from the portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in from dt.21.04.2025, 11:00 AM to 13.05.2025 up to 05:00 PM.**
6. The last date and time for submission of proposal complete in all respects is **08.04.2025 up to 05:00 PM,** the date of Opening of the Technical Proposal is **dt.14.05.2025 at 11:30 AM,** in the presence of the bidder's representative at the specified address as mentioned in the Bidder Data Sheet **(Sl.No.15)**. Representatives of the bidders may attend the meeting with due authorization letter on behalf of the bidder.

Commissioner,
Brahmapur Municipal Corporation
C-141: OIPR-13035/11/0045/2526

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
ANANDPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.
DIST :- KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN: 758020
E-Mail:cceabp@gmail.com
E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP- 02 of 2025-26
(Bid Id No. ABP-Soro-01/02 of 2025-26)
DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER ON EPC CONTRACT

Name of Work	Class/EMD/Tender Fee/Period of Completion
Construction of Distribution system for 12155.80 Ha. of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD) of Salandi Left Main Canal from RD 45.570 km to 49.810 km through Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation system (Gravity Flow) of Anandapur Barrage Project in Balasore District of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key Basis including operation and maintenance of the commissioned project.	(1) Class of Contractor - Super Class or Equivalent Grade Bidders (2) EMD : Rs 362.50 lakh. (3) Tender Fee: Rs.10,000.00. (4) Period of completion:- 27 (Twenty-seven) calendar months including rainy seasons.

A. Period of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal	: From 10.00 AM of 22.04.2025 to 19.05.2025 up to 5.00 PM
B. Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference	: 06.05.2025 at 11.30 AM
C. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bid	: 19.05.2025 up to 5.00 PM.
D. Place of Sale & Receipt of Bid	: On-Line through e-Procurement.
E. Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid	: 20.05.2025 at 11.30 AM.
F. Place of Opening of Bid	: O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.

G. Further details can be seen from E-Procurement Portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"

Chief Construction Engineer, Anandpur Barrage Project, Salapada.
A-52: OIPR-32068/11/0008/2526

BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari,
Bengaluru - 560070.
No: Admin(3)CR/60/2024-25 Dated: 19-04-2025
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE (SHORT TERM)
Tender Notification No: 02/2024-25, Dated: 19-04-2025
Tender is invited through e-Procurement for the 2515-00-101-0-28-(034) and Other Head of Accounts from the Date: 01-05-2025 for the period of 01 year for the following **Vacant Posts: 18 - Data Entry Operators, 06 - Drivers, 01 - Admin Assistant, 01 - Account Assistant, 20 - 'D' Group, 01 - Sweeper and 01 - Security Guard.**
The Tender Document can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 28-04-2025 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Deputy Secretary
Bengaluru Urban Zilla Panchayath, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/271/Adverto/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH

21.07.1949 – 17.04.2025
With profound grief, we announce the passing on of our beloved sister,
Dr. C. S. Parvathi.
A devoted daughter, a supportive sister, and a dedicated Doctor, she touched many lives through her commitment and service.
She leaves a great void in our hearts
*We will always miss you, **Bharathi.***
In grief:
Vijayam, Lalitha, Meera, Meena
+919810062516, +919769184357

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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INBRIEF

TTD plans revamping of Central Reception Office

In a move aimed at improving the pilgrim experience in Tirumala, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Executive Officer J. Shyamala Rao held a review meeting with senior officials on Saturday on the proposed reorganisation of the Central Reception Office (CRO). The CRO has long faced issues of overcrowding, largely due to outdated infrastructure. During the review, Mr. Rao emphasised the need for dedicated queue systems the retrofitting of existing buildings.

Over 80 fall ill after drinking sedative-laced toddy, 2 held

A man and his son have been arrested in Kamareddy district of Telangana after over 80 people fell sick last week on consuming toddy laced with Alprazolam, a prescription sedative. Eight other accused are absconding. They spiked the toddy to make it addictive, investigators said. The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau is probing the case. "All the patients are stable but under observation to manage withdrawal symptoms," Bureau Director Sandeep Shandilya said.

Encroachments on govt. lands removed by HYDRAA

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) removed encroachments on government lands, reclaiming property worth hundreds of crores of rupees in Hafeezpet and Raidurgam areas and cleared an encroachment of a thoroughfare in Injapur. The operation uncovered illegal construction activities, including the establishment of residential complexes and unauthorised commercial developments on government land.

Kerala actor arrested in drug case, released on bail

Before arrest, Shine Tom Chacko was summoned by the police after he allegedly fled a hotel in Kochi during a raid by the anti-narcotics task force; his blood and urine samples were collected

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kochi City Police arrested actor Shine Tom Chacko after more than four hours of interrogation at the Ernakulam Town North police station on Saturday afternoon. Later, he was released on bail.

Mr. Chacko had turned up at the station around 10 a.m. following a summons issued by the police to question him in connection with an incident in which he allegedly fled a hotel at Kaloor in Kochi during a raid by the District Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force (DANSAF) late on Wednesday night. Ahmmed Murshad, 25, of Malappuram, who had reportedly been with the actor in the hotel room on the day, was also booked.

In custody: Actor Shine Tom Chacko being taken by the police to the Ernakulam General Hospital for a medical test. R.K. NITHIN

They were booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act Sections 27 (b) (consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance) and Section 29 (punishment for abetment and criminal conspiracy). The charges were bailable.

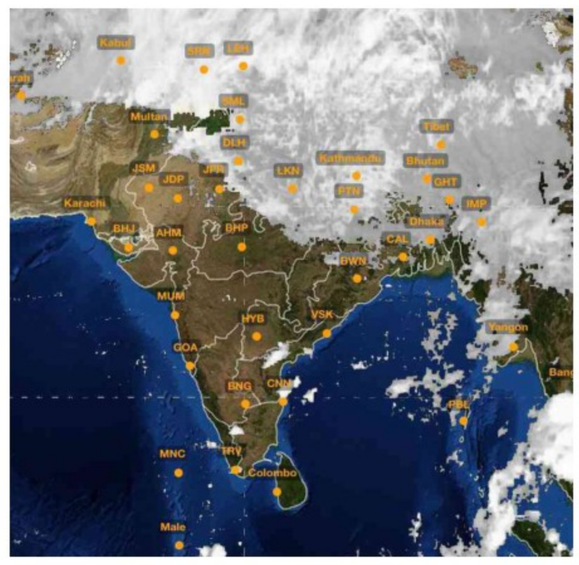
The First Information Report said that the accused had been staying in the hotel room either for using drugs or to conspire about it. Mr. Chacko was accused of fleeing the hotel with the intention of avoiding providing evidence to the DANSAF team.

Tests to assess addiction

Shortly after the arrest, Mr. Chacko was taken to the Ernakulam General Hospital for medical examination. Samples of his blood, urine, hair, saliva, and nail clippings were collected at the hospital. They will be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for assessing immediate and chronic drug addiction, hospital sources said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall/snowfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.0	23.0	Kozhikode	—	36.5	27.5
Ahmedabad	—	41.0	26.3	Kurnool	—	40.4	28.2
Aizawl	17	30.4	18.0	Lucknow	—	35.9	22.0
Allahabad	—	37.6	25.0	Madurai	—	39.5	26.7
Bengaluru	0.6	32.8	22.4	Mangaluru	—	35.1	25.4
Bhopal	—	41.2	26.4	Mumbai	—	33.0	25.6
Bhubaneswar	27	36.8	21.8	Mysuru	—	34.0	20.8
Chandigarh	0.5	35.4	25.2	New Delhi	—	39.5	25.8
Chennai	—	36.0	29.0	Patna	—	32.8	23.4
Coimbatore	—	35.0	24.8	Port Blair	—	31.4	25.2
Dehradun	1	34.0	22.1	Puducherry	—	36.0	27.6
Gangtok	0.2	22.4	13.9	Pune	—	42.5	25.3
Goa	—	35.0	27.0	Raipur	0.4	41.2	26.9
Guwahati	3	34.6	21.8	Ranchi	5	33.7	20.4
Hubballi	—	36.0	24.0	Shillong	2.6	21.5	14.3
Hyderabad	53	36.9	19.8	Shimla	1	31.6	17.6
Imphal	—	30.7	17.7	Srinagar	18	12.2	11.0
Jaipur	—	41.4	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5	27.1
Kochi	32	32.6	23.8	Tiruchi	—	38.7	27.6
Kohima	4	24.0	16.8	Vijayawada	—	39.2	27.4
Kolkata	—	33.8	23.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.5	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.60	.35	.8	213	158	
Bengaluru	—	.17	.34	143	111	
Chennai	6	4	.34	56	105	
Delhi	.11	.66	.60	182	243	
Hyderabad	6	.29	.53	42	94	
Kolkata	6	.36	.25	73	76	
Lucknow	6	.38	.28	90	166	
Mumbai	—	1	144	76	97	
Pune	.53	.13	107	305	—	
Visakhapatnam	9	.46	.20	62	100	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nagaur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 313 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Menace of hoax bomb threats in Puducherry

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUCHERRY

The menace of hoax bomb threats continue to put security establishments in Puducherry on an overdrive. After the hoax threat to Raj Nivas on Monday, miscreants on Saturday created a scare in the town by threatening to blast the residence of the Chief Minister, two prominent hotels and a restaurant.

According to the police, the first hoax email came to Shenbaga Hotel on Mahatma Gandhi Road informing the staff about explosive devices being planted inside the luxury hotel.

"We did a thorough search of all places mentioned in the emails, nothing unusual was found. It proved to be another hoax. We have registered cases pertaining to the threats received on Saturday," said a senior official.

NDA wins trust vote against Vizag Mayor

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) comprising the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Jana Sena Party (JSP), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has won the no-confidence motion against Visakhapatnam Mayor G. Hari Venkata Kumari of YSRCP. All the YSRCP corporators, except those who joined the JSP, TDP and BJP recently, boycotted the municipal council meeting, held for voting on the no-confidence motion on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by the Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad.

According to officials, a total of 63 corporators and 11 ex-officio members attended the meeting and voted against the Mayor, resulting in the victory for the NDA.

'Irregularities in Goshala during YSRCP term'

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu has alleged a huge scam in the SV Goshala during the YSRCP government's term.

Mr. Naidu, along with the TTD board members, All India Cow Protection Organisation general secretary and former TTD Cow Protection Organisation member Koti Sridhar, inspected the Goshala on Saturday.

Speaking to media later, he alleged misappropriation of funds and irregularities had taken place on a large scale in the Goshala during the YSRCP rule.

Crop crisis

Soaked seeds: A farmer drying paddy in Yadadri Bhongir district of Telangana on Saturday. Unseasonal rain for two days in many parts of the State has left farmers in misery. NAGARA GOPAL

Amid opposition to the caste census report, Karnataka Home Minister calls it 'most scientific'

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Terming the caste census a "most scientific" exercise, Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday said the Cabinet will take a decision on its implementation after hearing opinion of all the Ministers.

His comments come amid opposition to the survey report from various sections of society, calling it "unscientific". They have demanded that it be rejected, and a fresh survey conducted.

A special Cabinet meeting convened to deliberate on the caste census report on Thursday had ended inconclusive, reportedly amid internal differences within the government.

G. Parameshwara

The Cabinet is scheduled to take up the matter again on May 2.

"All Ministers have been asked to share their opinion. Some of us have participated in the discussion during the Cabinet. The discussion will continue and everyone will share their opinion," Mr. Parameshwara said.

Concerns raised

Speaking to reporters here, he said, some communities have expressed concern that their population strength has been shown less in the survey.

Stating that after studying the survey, he feels that this is one of the "most scientific" exercise, Parameshwara said.

"Signatures have been taken after gathering data from every household and supervisor's signatures are also there," he added.

Deeply troubling that untouchability and educational inequality still exist: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, underlining the continuing caste discrimination and educational inequality in society, said on Saturday that untouchability is still a harsh reality in modern India and that equality in letter and spirit is still a mirage for many communities.

Speaking at a dialogue hosted by the Kuruba Cultural Council, Sridevi Group of Educational Institutions, Praja Pragathi, and others at Tumakuru, the Chief Minister said the dream of a caste-free and humane society, as envisaged in the Constitution, continues to be denied to many.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G. Parameshwara at an event in Tumakuru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Even today, untouchability exists, and equal access to education is still not a reality. That is deeply troubling," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Narratives of inequality

Speaking on multiple ways in which hierarchy gets established, he cautioned against believing in narratives that, he argued, were designed to deify some "upper caste" personalities while lowering the intellectual capabilities of those coming from marginalised communities.

He cited the example of great writers like Kalidas who is portrayed as someone who was born with low intellectual capability but turned a poet by the blessing of a goddess or Valmiki who is believed to have been a robber before he reformed.

Now, those from backward communities who have access to education should make it a point to document their experiences and strive to uplift others, he said. Mr. Siddaramaiah emphasised the need for rational thinking, scientific inquiry, and documentation of experiences to counter caste-based oppression.

"Earlier, those who tried to learn Sanskrit or gain education were punished with molten lead poured into their ears. But today, we have access to education. Record your experiences. Talent is not the monopoly of any one group," he said.

Leptospirosis, shigellosis and hepatitis A cases rising in Kerala in past three years

A.S. Jayanth
KOZHIKODE

Leptospirosis, hepatitis A, and shigellosis have seen a drastic rise in Kerala in the past three years. Primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM) cases and deaths more than doubled in the past two years and a high number of mumps cases too were reported in 2024.

These were assessed using data from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme of the Health Department and the information made available through an RTI query.

There were 3,525 confirmed cases of leptospirosis and 226 deaths in 2024 and there were 2,417 confirmed cases and 133 deaths in 2023. In 2022, there were 2,482 confirmed cases and 121 confirmed deaths.

Proactive steps: Preventive tablets for leptospirosis being given at a government hospital in Kozhikode. FILE PHOTO

K.K. Purushothaman, public health expert, points out that the deaths due to leptospirosis have gone up in recent times and there has been a change in their pattern compared with previous years. "We need to probe the role of the bodily fluids of dogs, cats and cattle, along with that of rats, in spreading the infection. Other than agriculture workers and those residing in slums, people in urban areas too are infected now. Late detection is another problem leading to more deaths," he claims.

There were 7,966 cases of hepatitis A and 84 deaths and in 2024. Probable cases and deaths were 20,692 and 14, respectively. The confirmed cases and deaths in 2023 were 1,073 and 14 respectively. Probable cases and deaths were 3,508, and one. There were 74,908 mumps cases in 2024 while the data for 2022 and 2023 are not available.

As many as 119 cases of shigella dysentery infection and one death were also reported in 2024.

From Page One

Visa row: India expresses concern, U.S. denies bias

The rapid increase in SEVIS terminations came after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio launched a new AI-assisted "Catch and Revoke" programme that would identify students believed to have political views inimical to U.S. foreign policy interests based on their social media posts.

In addition, the Department of Homeland Security is carrying out a nationwide crackdown on students whose names allegedly feature in police databases, and terminating their student status due to visa violations according to U.S. immigration laws.

Two Indian researchers, Ranjani Srinivasan and Badar Khan Suri, were among the first batch of students detained or told to "self-deport" in the first round of such notices, where the MEA had cautioned Indian students to "follow the law". Subsequently, a number of Indian students have approached courts to have their SEVIS status restored, and in an indication of a shift in the MEA's stance, spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal disclosed this week that the Indian embassy and missions are "in touch" with the students affected and were offering support.

The AILA study found many of those whose visa has been revoked had been in police reports for minor traffic violations or campus infractions, while in an extreme case, a student who was a victim of domestic abuse had their visa cancelled because their name appeared in the police complaint. Only two of the 327 responses received pertained to allegations that the students were involved in any political activity, and lawyers have pointed out that protesting is not illegal per se, and that the students risked losing their future due to the government's action.

"International students contribute billions of dollars to [the U.S.] economy. Scholars and researchers are making this country stronger by doing incredibly valuable work in cancer research, space travel, computer technology and almost every area of science and research. Driving them elsewhere not only weakens our economy but threatens our national security," AILA Executive Director Ben Johnson said.

11 killed in Delhi building collapse

MCD officials said that *prima facie*, it was found that the structural design of the building did not adhere to the required load-bearing capacity. "It appears that other buildings in the area may also have structural issues and may not possess adequate load-bearing elements. In view of this, the MCD will carry out a survey in the area to identify buildings with fifth and sixth floors without adequate load-bearing elements, and will take action to seal them. Further, strong action will be taken against those found guilty," the MCD official said.

The police have filed a case against the owner of the building, Tehsin, under sections 290 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down, repairing or constructing buildings, etc), 106 (causing death by negligence), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 125(a) (punishment for act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

NDRF DIG Mohsen Shahidi said, "The manner in which the four-storey building collapsed is what we call a 'pancake collapse' – a particularly dangerous type where chances of survival are minimal. Still, we worked to save lives. Since it was a highly congested area, it was extremely challenging to work here. It was difficult to use heavy machinery to clear debris due to space constraints."

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi said they were saddened by the loss of lives. Mr. Modi announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of the deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000 each.

Bangladesh killings follow systematic pattern: India

MEA expresses distress over the killing of a Hindu outfit leader, calling it part of a 'systematic persecution'; it urges the Yunus administration to uphold its responsibility to protect minorities

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Continuing with its tough line on the rights of the minority religious communities in Bangladesh, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday said there was "systematic persecution of Hindu minorities" under the interim government led by Mohammed Yunus.

A statement from the official spokesperson of the MEA raised the recent killing of a Hindu community leader, Bhabesh Chandra Roy, and reminded the Yunus administration of its responsibility for the protection of minority rights.

"We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh. This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution of Hindu minorities under the interim government, even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity," the official spokesperson of the MEA, Randhir Jaiswal, said in a comment.

> We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA spokesperson

Bhabesh Chandra Roy, 58, hailed from Dinajpur of Bangladesh, and he was abducted from his home and beaten to death by four individuals on April 17 afternoon.

Mr. Roy was a leader of the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Committee, an important Hindu outfit that mobilises members of the community across Bangladesh around religious festivities.

"We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions," said Mr. Jaiswal.

The remark is the latest in a series of tit-for-tat comments between Dhaka and New Delhi over minority rights.

On April 17, Shafiqul Alam, the Press Secretary to Professor Yunus, urged India to ensure the safety of the Muslim minority population in India, which had prompted the MEA to hit back, saying that Dhaka's remarks were "disingenuous".

Congress demands probe into killing of Hindu leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Condemning the killing of a prominent Hindu leader in Bangladesh, the Congress on Saturday asked the Narendra Modi government to take up the matter with Dhaka, saying silence and inaction were not options when targeted violence against Hindus was taking place.

Taking to X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said religious minorities, "especially our Hindu brothers and sisters", were constantly being persecuted in Bangladesh. "The brutal murder of Bhabesh Chandra Roy is proof that @narendramodi ji's smiling meeting with the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh was a failure," Mr. Kharge posted in Hindi.

He said that according to the government's reply in Parliament, there had been 76 attacks on Hindus in the previous two months, leading to the deaths of 23 Hindus.

"The atrocities against religious minorities in Bangladesh, human rights violations, and the attempt to eliminate the memories of the 1971 Liberation War are efforts to weaken the relations between India and Bangladesh," he added.

Congress's communication chief Jairam Ramesh said the party stood in solidarity with the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

"The Congress Party urges the Government of India to take up the matter with the highest urgency and prevail upon the Government of Bangladesh to ensure a swift, transparent investigation and bring the culprits to justice. Silence and inaction are not options when such targeted violence is allowed to take root," Mr. Ramesh said.

Bengal Governor visits riot-hit areas of Murshidabad

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor C. V. Ananda Bose on Saturday visited riot-hit areas of Murshidabad and said that the situation is far from normal.

The Governor said that after Central forces have been deployed, the State forces and Central forces are acting in unison that has helped bring the situation in the field under control.

Mr. Bose, however, said that the "scars left on affected parties remain".

On Friday, the Governor visited a camp in Malda where victims of violence-affected areas from Murshidabad had taken shelter and he visited Murshidabad on Saturday.

Mr. Bose also visited Jafrabad where two members of the same family were hacked to death on April 12.

Mr. Bose met villagers who said that they were not feeling safe and demanded that permanent camps of Border Security Force (BSF) forces should be set up in the areas. "There were many demands. First, was [that] we want justice, second we want peace and third was permanent deployment of security forces," Mr. Bose said.

C.V. Ananda Bose

Large crowds of local residents affected by violence came out to meet him and recounted the violence they faced, the Governor said while pointing out that people want a sense of security.

The visit of the Governor comes at a time when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had urged him not to travel to the areas citing that confidence building measures were in place.

Along with the Governor, a team of National Commission for Women (NCW) also visited the violence-affected areas. NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said she was "dumbfounded by the agony these women are having to suffer".

IMEC initiative on track despite conflict, says Misri ahead of PM's Saudi trip

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Israel-Palestine conflict will not impact the plans for an India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Saturday, while presenting an overview of India's relations with Saudi Arabia, which will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Indian officials on April 22 and 23.

"Frankly speaking, I don't necessarily see any organic linkage between these two issues. India's position on the two-state solution is a long-held position. I don't think there is any need to restate anything to this at this stage. In IMEC, work can proceed in parallel. The security situation impacts only certain areas at a particular point in time. It is possible to do work on this particular project in a distributed fashion," Mr. Misri said, addressing a press event about Mr. Modi's trip.

The IMEC project was started during the G-20 summit in September 2023 in New Delhi but received an evident setback just weeks later with the eruption of the Israel-Palestine conflict on October 7, 2023. Mr. Misri said that though the required groundwork could not be done after the signing of the framework agreement in 2023, individual countries have made some forward movement in "infrastructure linkages". He added that work is going to start imminently on connecting electricity grids, which he described as one of the "major pillars of the IMEC initiative".

The visit will be the Prime Minister's third to Saudi Arabia. PTI

"The security situation in the region makes it seem as if progress has frozen on IMEC, but we have been working with select partners," Mr. Misri said, explaining that India is also working to control the violence between the Israelis and Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

He said that the PM's visit to Saudi Arabia would provide an opportunity to "exchange notes" on regional and global issues, including the threat to navigation posed by the Houthi rebels.

This will be Mr. Modi's third visit to Saudi Arabia, following previous trips in 2016 and 2019. He will meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. "The visit is important on account of the obvious significance of Saudi Arabia as the strategic partner of India," Mr. Misri said, citing the role that Saudi Arabia plays in India's energy security as well as the large expat Indian population.

Protests by teachers continue in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Aggrieved teachers of West Bengal have continued their protests across the State, even after the Supreme Court on April 17 allowed untainted teaching candidates to continue working until the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) completes fresh recruitments by December 31.

On Saturday, aggrieved, untainted teachers carried out protest rallies, reiterating their demands for the segregation of tainted and untainted candidates. In the Esplanade area, teachers are continuing their sit-in demonstration.

On Friday, Education Minister Bratya Basu hinted at the likelihood of the SSC publishing a list of terminated teaching and non-teaching staff on April 21, marking them as either "tainted" or "not specifically tainted". "We will not stop our agitations till we see the segregated list with our own eyes. Once the list is given to us, we will decide our future course of action," Mehboob Mondal, the spokesperson of the 'Deserving Teachers' Rights Forum', said on Saturday.

'Judiciary and press are two pillars of democracy'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reflecting upon the freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary, Justice Madan B. Lokur (retd.) on Saturday said both were under assault at present. Delivering the keynote address at the Nai Duniya Foundation's Media for Unity Awards 2025, Justice Lokur said that the judiciary and the press were "the two pillars of our democracy".

Justice Madan B. Lokur presents a Nai Duniya Media for Unity awards to National Editor of *The Hindu* Suhasini Haidar in New Delhi on Saturday. Former CEC S.Y. Quraishi is seen. AMAN RAJ

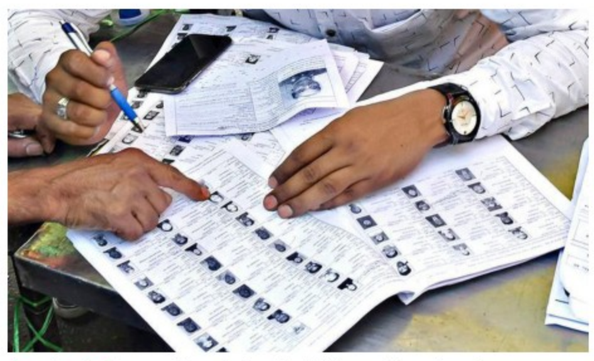
Justice Lokur gave away the Nayi Duniya Foundation awards to a host of distinguished journalists, including Suhasini Haidar, National Editor, *The Hindu*. Ms. Haidar received the Kuldip Nayar Media Unity Award from Justice Lokur and the late Kuldip Nayar's granddaughter, Mandira Nayar, for her "contributions to English journalism". "I would like to thank the platform that I have, which is *The Hindu* newspaper. It is a living example of a newspaper for which pluralism is an article of faith," Ms. Haidar said. The awardees included veteran journalists Arun Shourie and Mrinal Pande; founding editor of *The Wire* Siddharth Varadarajan; filmmaker Anubhav Sinha; broadcast journalist Preeti Choudhry; senior journalists Om Thanvi and Navin Suri; theatre luminary M.K. Raina; and the India Love Project, a social media initiative.

Amid allegations, only 89 primary and one final appeal filed to contest electoral rolls nationwide

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Even as numerous Opposition parties have made charges of voter roll manipulation, there have been hardly any appeals filed by them on inclusion or exclusion of voters after the publication of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls.

As per reports filed by the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) of 36 States and Union Territories, accessed by *The Hindu*, there have been 89 primary appeals and only one final appeal made before the Maharashtra Assembly polls. Since the Lok Sabha elections held in 2024 and till after the final publication of the SSR on January 7 this year, no other appeal had been made by any political party in any other State.



Constant change: The electoral roll is in a state of continuous update throughout the year. FILE PHOTO

The reports filed by the CEOs take into consideration the countrywide SSR of electoral rolls in nearly 10.5 lakh polling booths and all 4,123 Assembly constituencies of the country. It also includes the SSR which was specifically done for States and Union Territories that went for Assembly elections after the Lok Sabha election in 2024, including Maharashtra, Haryana, and Delhi.

The electoral roll is in a state of continuous update throughout the year, except during an election in a constituency for a period from the last date of filing nominations to completion of the election process. With an amendment made in the Representation of the People Act, 1950, four qualifying dates – January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 – have come into effect in a calendar year in place of one qualifying date of January 1. However, the Annual Summary Revision with all pre-revision activities is conducted with reference to January 1 of the year only, in which the roll is finally published, as the qualifying date.

Section 24 of the Representation of the People Act, 1961, said appeals contesting the inclusion or exclusion of names on electoral rolls can first be filed with the District Magistrate (DM) and then with the Chief Electoral Officer. Under Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, the first appeal to the DM can be filed within 15 days of the order of the Electoral Registration Officer, and the second appeal to the CEO can be filed within 30 days of the order of the DM. However, the delay in filing an appeal can be condoned by DM and/or CEO as per the proviso of Rule 27.

Ever since the Maharashtra Assembly poll results brought the BJP-led Mahayuti back to power, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has been alleging that there was an unnaturally large number of people added to the list in five months since the Lok Sabha polls.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, had claimed that 39 lakh names were added to the rolls before the Assembly elections.

BJP distances itself from party leaders' remarks on SC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday disassociated itself from the sharp criticism of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna by its MPs Nishikant Dubey and Dinesh Sharma, with party president J.P. Nadda rejecting the comments as their personal views.

"The BJP has nothing to do with the comments of MPs Nishikant Dubey and Dinesh Sharma on the judiciary and the Chief Justice. This is their personal comments, but the BJP neither agrees with them nor does it ever support such remarks. The BJP absolutely rejects them," Mr. Nadda said in a post on social media platform X.

'Key part of democracy'

He said the BJP has always respected the judiciary and has accepted its suggestions and orders gladly because it believes as a party all the courts, including the Supreme Court, are an inseparable part of our democracy.

Mr. Nadda also said that he has directed the leaders and others to not make such comments.

Mr. Dubey, one of the more vocal party members in the Lok Sabha, launched a broadside against the Supreme Court earlier, saying Parliament and State Assemblies should be closed down if the court makes the laws.

He also took a swipe at Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

Cong. leaders discuss follow-up steps for AICC meet decisions

Party plans 'Save Constitution' rallies, doorstep campaign; the BJP busy weakening SC, attacking powers given to it by Constitution, says Jairam

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Talks on: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with party general secretaries and States in-charge in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday presided over a meeting of general secretaries, States incharge, and heads of frontal organisations to chalk out a follow-up plan to implement the decisions taken at the party's Ahmedabad session on the ground.

The party's top brass also discussed its strategy in response to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chargesheet against former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the *National Herald* case. But neither leader attended the meeting.

The party announced its plan to hold 40-odd press conferences across the country between April 21 and 23 on the *National Herald* issue.

Between April 25 and May 30, the party will take out "*Samvidhan Bachao*" (Save the Constitution) rallies in every State and district, followed by door-to-door campaigns.

"The Indian National Congress is not merely launching a campaign – it is igniting a people's resistance to defend the very soul of our Republic. We stand united to safeguard the Constitution, uphold the values of liberty, equality, and justice, and to fight for the rights, dignity, and future of every Indian," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said, sharing the schedule for the next 40 days.

In his speech, Mr. Kharge said the party leaders were named in the ED chargesheet, and *National Herald* properties in Delhi, Lucknow and Mumbai were attached with a "spirit of vendetta".

'Not a coincidence'

The Congress chief also said it cannot be a mere coincidence that the ED took such a big step after the All India Congress Committee (AICC) session in Ahmedabad.

Asserting that Young Indian is a 'not-for-profit' company, the Congress chief said this meant that no one could take or transfer the shares, properties or profits of Associated Journals Limited that published *The National Herald*. In the closed-door meeting, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is said to have underscored the need to explain the *National Herald* issue in simple terms without getting into complexities. Ms. Vadra is also said to have emphasised the need to explain that *National Herald* came into existence much before Independence and was a not-for-profit company, and no one had taken any income or remuneration.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, addressing a press conference after the two-and-a-half hour meeting, said the ED chargesheet against Congress leaders in the *National Herald* case was a "lie-sheet".

"They [BJP] are busy weakening the Supreme Court. The powers given by the Constitution to the Supreme Court are being sought to be weakened," he added.

Nitish using Bihar govt. funds for campaign ahead of polls: Tejashwi

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday accused the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government of misusing ₹225 crore from the State Treasury for political campaign ahead of the Assembly election.

Speaking at the RJD headquarters here, Mr. Yadav alleged that government money was being "siphoned off" through initiatives such as '*Mahila Samvad*', which he termed political propaganda.

On Friday, Mr. Kumar inaugurated the initiative through video conferencing by flagging off '*Mahila Samvad*' awareness vehicles. Under the programme, women will be provided information about the schemes and works being implemented for women empowerment. Women will also be given an opportunity to identify the problems and aspirations of their village.

Tejashwi Yadav

The work done by the State government will be shown through a video on big TV screens for which 600 vehicles have been pressed into service.

"In a poor State like Bihar, the public money is being looted, where 600 digital chariots were brought from Delhi for ₹225 crore, and loot is being done in the name of *Mahila Samvad*. Why is a huge amount of money being spent from the Treasury for election campaigns," he asked.

'Organised loot'

He further said, "The situation of institutional and organised loot is such that the government is spending ₹688 crore on the maintenance of 10 buildings. Why has the government given contracts to private companies for cleaning and maintenance of such buildings, why direct appointments were not made for this? If direct appointments had been made, thousands of people would have received jobs."

He said the government had hastily approved schemes worth ₹76,622 crore in the last seven Cabinet meetings and most of them were related to construction. "This corrupt government is meeting election expenses by immediately issuing tenders and getting immediate commission in construction-related schemes in the election year," he said.

Reacting to the allegations, Janata Dal(U) MP Sanjay Jha said there was corruption in Bihar during Lalu-Rabri's rule and the current government was taking action against people responsible for wrong acts.

Nehru's greatest legacy is giving Indians courage to resist oppression, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday asserted that he can say whatever he wants because the truth protects him.

In a freewheeling conversation with party leader Sandeep Dikshit that was posted on the former Congress chief's social media platform X handle, Mr. Gandhi said he had inherited "truth and courage" from his great-grandfather and the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Rahul Gandhi

Pandit Nehru's greatest legacy was giving Indians the courage to resist oppression, he added.

Drawing a parallel between the British colonialists and the Narendra Modi government, Mr. Gandhi asserted that the freedom movement was like a "sandpaper that threw out the untruthful".

'Truth offers protection'

"If you are fighting the British and you have a single lie, they will get you. Like today, if you are fighting the BJP and you have anything to hide or being corrupt, you are finished. So what protects you in an environment when there is oppression is truth," he said. "The reason I can say whatever I want is because the truth protects me," Mr. Gandhi added.

In a post on X, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha further said, "Nehru didn't teach us politics – he taught us to confront fear and stand for the truth. He gave Indians the courage to resist oppression and ultimately claim freedom".

'Want Chirag to contest Bihar polls to have bigger role in State politics'

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) on Saturday hinted that party president and Union Minister Chirag Paswan may leave his position in the Union government to contest the Bihar Assembly election.

During a recent interview with a news channel, Mr. Paswan himself said that he wants to focus more on Bihar and does not want to spend time at the Centre for too long. Speaking to *The Hindu*, the party's MP Arun Bharti also said that it is the right time to enter Bihar politics by contesting the Assembly election since Mr. Paswan has always focused on a "Bihar first, Bihari first" campaign.

Chirag Paswan

"The foundation of my politics is based on 'Bihar first, Bihari first'. My State is calling me. My father Ram Vilas Paswan was more active in Central politics, but my first priority is Bihar. I cannot stay in the Centre for long," Mr. Paswan had said.

He had added that the huge crowd of youth that gathered for his meetings in Bihar showed that he still had responsibilities in the State, adding that party workers wanted him to spend more time in the State and become more active in Bihar politics.

Asked about the broader meaning of Mr. Paswan's statement, Mr. Bharti told *The Hindu*, "What I see as a political worker is that 15 to 18 years ago, there was a time when three leaders of Bihar used to decide the direction and situation of the country's politics. At present, there is a paradigm shift in Bihar and people have to decide who will be the leader in Bihar."

'Implemented vision'

The Jamui MP added: "The way Chirag Paswan *ji* has been working to develop Bihar since 2019 with the campaign 'Bihar first, Bihari first' and bringing investment of ₹2,000 crore through his department, or formation of Makhana Board in Bihar proves that he has effectively implemented his vision."

The Assembly polls will not only elect the State's government, but will also decide the State's direction for the next 25 years, said Mr. Bharti, who is Mr. Paswan's brother-in-law.

"The party workers and I even want him to get a bigger responsibility in Bihar but we are part of the coalition government and we want to respect it. As a party worker, I want Chirag Paswan *ji* to contest Assembly elections in days to come so that he can have a big role in Bihar politics," Mr. Bharti said.

'Sena (UBT) will not allow move to make Hindi compulsory'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena (UBT) will not allow the move to make Hindi compulsory in Maharashtra, said the party's chief, Uddhav Thackeray, on Saturday.

His comment comes in the wake of the State government's decision to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of Classes 1 to 5, in line with the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, recommendations.

Addressing an event of the Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, the workers' wing of the Shiv Sena (UBT), Mr. Thackeray said his party had no aversion to Hindi but asked why it was being forced on students.

'Opposition outcry'

There has been an Opposition outcry in Maharashtra against the decision to make Hindi a mandatory third language for students of Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools, in a departure from the practice of studying two languages.

The States ruled by non-BJP parties have opposed the move, alleging Hindi imposition.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-Tender Notice

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E-Tender ID No. 2025_KSEB_754854_1, PAC: Rs.6,21,95,000/-, Last Date: 22.04.2025, 11.00 am

Name of Work: Supply and construction of 11 KV line using HT ABC and ACSR Raccoon on TURNKEY basis under Dyuthi Special scheme at various locations of Electrical Division Kattappana & Peermade under Electrical Circle, Thodupuzha.

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Transmission Circle, Malappuram

E Tender ID No. 2025_KSEB_755310_1, PAC: Rs.8,29,98,649/-, Last Date: 22.04.2025, 04.00 pm

Name of Work: Supplying, laying, termination, testing and commissioning of 132 KV single core. 630 mm2 Aluminium conductor XLPE insulated, corrugated aluminium sheathed UG cable and for 110 KV G6 at 110 kV Substation Malappuram

O/o the Chief Engineer (P&SCM), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram

E Tender ID No. 2025_KSEB_756774_1, PAC: Rs. 28,24,09,500/-, Last Date: 22.04.2025, 04.30 pm

Materials to be supplied: 11 kV/433 V, 100 kVA (848 Nos), 250 kVA (199 Nos), 315 kVA (4Nos) & 500 kVA (27 Nos) BEE Energy Efficiency Level 1 (1 Star) Distribution Transformers with ISI marking.

E Tender ID No. 2025_KSEB_756767_1, PAC: Rs.9,39,08,916/-, Last Date: 22.04.2025, 03.00 pm

Materials to be supplied: 1) 110 kV CTs 800/400/1A(4C) - 121 Nos

2) 110 kV CTs 400/200/100/1A(4C) - 300 Nos, 3) Supporting Structure for 110 kV CTs - 270 Nos

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INBRIEF

Patnaik asks party workers to expose BJP's 'false' narrative

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who was chosen as the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president for the ninth time in a row on Saturday, called upon party workers to expose the alleged false narrative of the ruling BJP. Addressing party leaders and workers after being named as the BJD president, Mr. Patnaik said, "We conceded defeat in the last Assembly election by a narrow margin, even though our party got more votes. This is because we couldn't effectively counter the false narrative. Creating a false narrative is the main strategy against the BJD. We should be aggressive in exposing this, especially on social media." PTI

First prototype fast-breeder reactor will be ready by 2026

India's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Tamil Nadu's Kalpakkam is expected to be commissioned next year, nearly two years after it got the go-ahead from the nuclear regulator, officials have said. The commissioning of the PFBR will mark the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme that aims to recycle spent fuel to reduce the inventory of radioactive waste. The PFBR is the first-of-its-kind nuclear reactor to use plutonium-based mixed oxide as fuel and liquid sodium as coolant. It will also utilise the spent fuel of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, which form the mainstay of nuclear power in India at present. PTI

Uniform compensation sought in SC for victims of hate crimes

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on April 23 a petition seeking uniformity in granting compensation to the victims of hate crimes and lynching. The top court had in 2023 sought responses from the Centre, States and Union Territories on a petition filed by the Indian Muslim for Progress and Reforms (IMPAR). It had asked the Centre, States and U.T.s to apprise the court of the steps taken for formulating a scheme for providing relief to the families of victims of mob lynching, as directed by the top court in the 2018 verdict in the Tehseen Poonawala case. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Augustine George Masih is slated to hear the matter. PTI

Ex-IAS officer gets 5-year jail term in land allotment case

A district court in Bhuj town of Gujarat on Saturday sentenced former IAS officer Pradeep Sharma to five years of rigorous imprisonment in a 2011 case of irregularities in the allotment of government land to a private company when he was the District Collector of Kutch. The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate J.V. Buddha sentenced Mr. Sharma, urban planner Natubhai Desai, then mamlatdar Narendra Prajapati and then resident Deputy Collector Ajitsinh Zala to five years' imprisonment. The court said Mr. Sharma's sentence would begin after he serves the five-year term given by a sessions court earlier this year in a 2004 corruption case. PTI

SUDOKU

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	2					7	9	
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		9	2		6			
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		5			9			2
	1	6					3	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	8	1	7	5	6	4	9	2
5	6	9	8	2	4	3	7	1
2	7	4	3	9	1	8	5	6
6	9	3	1	4	2	5	8	7
1	4	5	9	8	7	6	2	3
8	2	7	6	3	5	1	4	9
9	5	6	4	7	3	2	1	8
4	3	8	2	1	9	7	6	5
7	1	2	5	6	8	9	3	4

Odisha farmer in for a golden harvest with paddy seed

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

As his indigenous paddy variety has gained widespread popularity among cultivators in Odisha, a farmer in the State has sought a share of profits from the seed's commercialisation. The move, if successful, will mark the first instance of a farmer in the State being compensated for conservation efforts under an initiative of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), a quasi judiciary body of the Union government.

In a letter addressed to PPV&FRA Chairperson Trilochan Mahapatra, Jayant Kumar Jena, who holds the official registration for *Keonjhar Kalachampa*, the paddy variety developed by his father, has requested a fair share of profits from the seed's commercialisation.

Keonjhar Kalachampa, known for its tolerance to major diseases and pests under field conditions in coastal Odisha, is non-lodging (resistant to bending or falling over), responsive to fertilizers, suitable for both timely and late sowing, and is among the first traditional varieties to be integrated into the formal seed supply chain.

The paddy variety was first registered in the name of Anirudha Jena, a farmer of Guhalia village in Anandpur block of Odisha. It was officially released by the State Seed Sub-Committee following a recommendation of the Agriculture and Food Production Directorate, Odisha. Subsequently, the Union government notified the variety in 2015.

However, after his death from COVID-19, the registration was transferred to his son, Mr. Jayant Jena, this year.

The State Seed Testing Laboratory (SSTL) had taken a lead role in producing the breeder seed, or genetically pure seed, of *Keonjhar Kalachampa*. The Orissa University of Agriculture Technology (OUAT) had taken the responsibility of producing the seed. The Odisha State Seeds Corporation (OSSC) and private companies are marketing the variety.

Paddy pioneer: *Keonjhar Kalachampa* is among the traditional varieties entering the formal supply chain. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

"It is understood that the OSSC alone has produced and distributed more than 87,000 quintals of certified seed of this variety from 2018 to 2023, reflecting substantial commercial utilisation and profitability for the agencies involved," Mr. Jayant Jena said.

When contacted, the PPV&FRA Chairperson said, "Many farmers are getting benefits through registration with the authority. If a request comes from Mr. Jayant Jena, we will certainly facilitate benefit sharing in accordance with guidelines."

If the PPV&FRA directs the Odisha government in this regard, the Jena family may earn lakhs of rupees each year.

Evolution

The Odisha Agriculture Department had stumbled upon *Keonjhar Kalachampa* around 2006-07, during a baseline survey of seed germplasm – an effort to develop a catalogue of local paddy and non-paddy varieties. As many as 1,070 paddy varieties and 200 non-paddy varieties were catalogued.

Odisha created a gene bank, a one-of-its-kind initiative in India, to preserve traditional varieties collected from farmers. The seeds have been preserved in a temperature- and humidity-controlled setting to ensure their preservation for up to 50 years.

"Anirudh Jena first presented the variety to me. I was so impressed by its potential and character that we took it into the government system for refinement. It is high-yielding and at the same time resilient to vagaries of climate change," said Chakradhara Panda, former District Agriculture Officer, who was instrumental in the registration of *Keonjhar Kalachampa* with the PPV&FRA.

Keonjhar Kalachampa is one of Odisha's 780 paddy varieties registered with the PPV&FRA. The scientific process to register the varieties was quite tedious. "We had detailed 62 characters of each variety, provided 100 panicles of each paddy variety and 1.5 kg of seeds for their preservation in the PPV&FRA gene bank. All the local paddy varieties had undergone DUS [distinctness, uniformity and stability] testing," Mr. Panda said.

He said local varieties were given huge importance as they enabled development of new varieties that were climate-resilient and sustainable.

"We first carried out pure-line selection of *Keonjhar Kalachampa*, which provides average yield of 7,000 kg per hectare. It was highly acceptable among farmers due to its resistance to biotic stress. After its field trials, it was released by the State government in 2013 and subsequently notified by Centre," said Mr. Panda, who is associated with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.

24 candidates share 100 percentile in JEE (Main)

Two of them are women candidates; 21 are from general category, and one each is from SC, ST, OBC categories; more than 9.92 lakh candidates appeared for second edition of this year's exam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two woman candidates, Devdutta Majhi from West Bengal and Sai Manogna Guthikondat from Andhra Pradesh, were among the 24 who achieved the 100 percentile score in the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) for admission to various engineering colleges this year.

Seven of the male candidates are from Rajasthan, three each from Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, and two each from Gujarat and Delhi, and one each is from West Bengal and Karnataka.

The National Testing Agency announced the results here on Saturday.

The NTA said in a release that out of the 24 candidates who achieved 100 percentile score, 21 are from the general category, while one each belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) categories. More than 9.92 lakh candidates had appeared for the second edition of this year's examination while 10.61 lakh candidates had attended the first.

Final stretch: Candidates come out of an examination centre after appearing for the JEE (Main) in Patna on April 2. PTI

The NTA said the scores of the JEE were normalised across multi-session papers and were based on the relative performance of all those who had appeared for the examination in one session.

"The marks obtained are converted into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each session of examinees. NTA score is not the same as the percentage of marks obtained," the NTA said.

'Prescribed formula'

"100 X Number of candidates appeared in the 'session' with raw score equal to or than the candidate divided by total number of candidates who appeared in the 'session'," is the formula prescribed by the NTA for the examinations.

Based on the results of JEE (Main) Papers 1 and 2, the NTA will shortlist the candidates for JEE (Advanced). "For those candidates who appeared in both sessions of the examination, the best NTA score of both the sessions has been declared," the NTA added.

The examination was conducted in 13 languages – Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

IMA body opposes two-shift NEET-PG, fears disparities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The main issue with two-shift model is lack of transparency in the normalisation process, say doctors

Alleging a lack of transparency and disparity between exam shifts, doctors have approached the Union Health Ministry seeking urgent intervention to stop the conduct of the June 15 National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for postgraduate (NEET-PG) medical admissions in two shifts.

The National Board of Examination in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has announced that the first shift will be held from 9 a.m. to half past noon, and the second from 3.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In a letter to the Health Ministry, the Indian Medical Association Junior Doctors' Network (IMA-JDN) said the test was conducted in two shifts last year as the organisers cited lack of sufficient time to allocate the centres and ensure security protocols. "No such problem exists this year," it said.

Doctors said though the NBEMS and the National Medical Council (NMC) brought in a normalisation process last year after candidates pointed out disparity between shifts, the process was flawed.

"The primary issue with the two-shift model is the lack of transparency in the normalisation process. Last year, it was widely observed that Shift 2 was significantly more difficult, leading to disparities in scores and relative rankings. This not only affected the performance of candidates but also created uncertainty and demoralisation," the IMA-JDN said in its letter.

Indranil Deshmukh, national secretary of the IMA-JDN Standing Committee, said there was serious concern among the two lakh candidates that issues that plagued the test last year would crop up again.

Anti-cybercrime unit alerts pilgrims to online booking scams

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The frauds involve helicopter booking, hotel reservations, online cab services and holiday packages

The anti-cybercrime unit of the Union Home Ministry has issued a public alert over a rising wave of online booking scams, targeting pilgrims and tourists, that offer fraudulent deals for helicopter and hotel bookings for the Kedarnath and Chaar Dhaam Yatra.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said in a press note on Saturday that sophisticated frauds were being perpetrated through fake websites, deceptive social media pages including those on Facebook, and paid advertisements on platforms such as Google and WhatsApp to dupe unsuspecting individuals with promises of travel and accommodation services.

Scams involve helicopter booking for Kedarnath and Chaar Dhaam, reservations at guest houses and hotels, online cab and taxi services as well as holiday packages and religious tours.

Close verification

The I4C has advised citizens to verify the authenticity of websites before transferring money, and avoid clicking on suspicious "sponsored" or unknown links on Google, Facebook, or WhatsApp. It recommends that bookings be made only through official government portals or trusted travel agencies.

Regular cyberpatrolling efforts are under way to disable fake websites, misleading advertisements, and impersonating social media accounts.

ISI-backed Khalistani terror modules busted, weapons seized in Punjab, say police

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police have arrested 13 members of two major Khalistani terror modules run from abroad and seized two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), two hand grenades, IEDs and RDX along with other munitions, Director-General of Police Gaurav Yadav said on Saturday.

These modules were being controlled by the proscribed terrorist outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) from abroad through France-based Satnam Singh, alias Satta, and Greece-based Jaswinder alias Mannu Agwan, he said.

Officials said more arrests are likely in the coming days.

With these modules getting busted, the police have foiled a conspiracy masterminded by Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) to disturb peace and harmony in the border State, the DGP said.

Gaurav Yadav

Counter Intelligence (CI) Jalandhar and District Police Batala dismantled the modules in two separate operations and 13 accused, including a minor, were held, the officials said.

This is a major blow to transnational terror networks targeting peace and stability in Punjab, Mr. Yadav said in a post on X.

The DGP said the police seized two RPGs including a launcher, two IEDs (2.5 kg each), two hand grenades with detonators, two kg of RDX with remote control, five pistols, six magazines and others.

Sharing the operation details, Assistant Inspector General, Counter Intelligence Jalandhar, Navjot Singh Mahal said that in an intelligence-based operation, police teams arrested Jagroop Singh of Basti Amritsarian in Hoshiarpur, Jatinder Singh, alias Honey, of Daburji in Kapurthala, Harpreet Singh of Hoshiarpur and Jagjeet Singh of Kapurthala, and recovered arms and explosives.

Preliminary investigations revealed that these accused were working on the instructions of Satnam Satta. Further investigations are on to unearth the entire network and previous crimes, he said.

Student from India killed by stray bullet in Canada

Associated Press
NEW YORK

A 21-year-old Indian student was killed in Canada after she was struck by a stray bullet while she was waiting at a bus stop on her way to work, as a shoot-out happened nearby.

Harsimrat Randhawa was a student at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario. The Hamilton Police are investigating the homicide that happened on Wednesday, saying Randhawa was an innocent bystander. The Consulate General of India in Toronto said in a post on X on Friday, "We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Indian student Harsimrat Randhawa in Hamilton, Ontario. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family during this difficult time." The family of the victim urged the Centre for assistance in bringing the body.

INBRIEF

India ships first pomegranate consignment to U.S. via sea

India has exported 14 tonne of pomegranate, for the first time through sea route to the U.S., the Commerce Ministry said. Traditionally exports were done by air route. Now, the industry is embracing the cost-effective and sustainable sea-freight. India shipped pomegranates comprising 4,620 boxes or about 14 tonne, which reached the U.S. East Coast last month, as per an official statement. The U.S. granted market access for pomegranates during the season in 2023. PTI

Sify Technologies reports Q4 net loss of ₹57.8 crore

Comprehensive ICT service and solution provider Sify Technologies has reported a net loss of ₹57.8 crore for the March quarter, the company said on Saturday. The Chennai-based company had registered a net profit of ₹8.9 crore during the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. For the full financial year ended March 31, 2025, the net loss of the company stood at ₹78.5 crore as against a net profit of ₹16.8 crore in the previous year. PTI

Delhivery, Ecom Express seek CCI nod for ₹1,400-crore deal

Logistic firm Delhivery Ltd. and Ecom Express have sought Competition Commission of India's (CCI) nod for their ₹1,400-crore deal. Under the deal, Delhivery will acquire a controlling stake in Ecom Express for ₹1,400 crore in cash. While Delhivery is a listed integrated logistics player, Ecom Express provides logistics solutions to the Indian e-commerce industry. Mergers and acquisitions beyond a certain threshold mandatorily require the approval from CCI. PTI

ICICI Bank Q4 net grows 18%, to pay ₹11 a share in dividend

Net interest income for the quarter climbed 11% YoY to ₹ 21,193 crore; Net interest margin stood at 4.41% in Q4FY25 compared with 4.25% in Q3FY25; 'tariffs to pressure on long-term growth plan'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank Ltd. reported an 18% year on year growth, beating estimates in standalone net profit to ₹12,630 crore on an improvement in net interest income (NII).

The board has recommended a dividend of ₹11 per share. For FY25 the bank's net profit grew by 15.5% to ₹47,227 crore.

NII for the quarter rose 11% to ₹21,193 crore. Net interest margin stood at 4.41% compared with 4.25% in Q3-2025.

Clean up act: Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) for the quarter were down to ₹24,166 crore from ₹27,962 crore a year ago. REUTERS

Provisions (excluding tax provision) were higher at ₹891 crore in Q42025 compared with ₹718 crore.

Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) for the quarter slid to ₹24,166 crore from ₹27,962 crore.

Net NPAs were higher at ₹5,589 crore against ₹5,378 crore a year ago.

Sandeep Batra, ED, told reporters the bank would grow it's business in a risk-calibrated manner and would continue to fund bankable customers.

On U.S. tariffs

On tariff impact, he said, "Though it is difficult to assess the impact, we will support customers."

He said tariffs would impact long-term growth plans, but the bank would remain nimble.

The RBI's reduction in repo rate would impact bank's margins, he added.

HDFC Bank Q4 net rises 7%, to pay ₹22 a share in dividend

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank Ltd., India's largest private sector bank, for the fourth quarter reported a 7% year on year growth in standalone net profit to ₹17,616 crore following a 10.3% rise in Net Interest Income (NII) to ₹32,070 crore.

Profit after tax for the year ended March 31, 2025 was ₹67,350 crore, up by 10.7% YoY. The board of directors have recommended a dividend of ₹22 per equity share of ₹1 for the year ended March 31, 2025.

Corporates were adopting wait and watch approach, says CFO.

Net interest margin was at 3.54% on total assets and 3.73% on interest-earning assets. Excluding ₹700 crore of interest on income tax refund, core net interest margin was at 3.46% on total assets, and 3.65% based on interest earning assets, the bank said.

Chief financial officer Srinivasan Vaidyanathan said loan growth in FY26 would be similar to the previous year and there would be more opportunity to grow the retail loan portfolio on lower penetration levels in India.

He said considering current volatile situation due to the tariff war, corporates were adopting a wait and watch approach. "We acknowledge the volatile situation and remain watchful," Mr. Vaidyanathan said.

Yes Bank Q4 net surges 63% on dip in provisions

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Yes Bank standalone net profit surged 63.3% to ₹738 crore on lower provisions in Q4 of FY25.

The bank cut provisions by 32.5% to ₹318 crore in the quarter-under-review against ₹471 crore in the year-ago period. Net interest income rose 5.7% to ₹2,276 crore. Following the footsteps of other lenders, Yes bank said it was reducing interest rates on savings bank account.

'India-U.S. to talk early BTA tranche'

Amiti Sen
NEW DELHI

Top Indian and U.S. officials will discuss the agenda for an "early tranche" of the bilateral trade agreement (BTA) that can be delivered within the 90-day pause period for reciprocal tariffs in Washington DC next week.

"The Indian team led by Commerce Additional Secretary Rajesh Agarwal will be in Washington DC next week for a three-day meeting with U.S. counterparts aimed at moving beyond agreed terms of reference (ToRs) and discuss U.S. ambitions in areas such as agriculture and non-tariff barriers," a source said.

Formal talks

Additionally, the two sides will work on scheduling of the formal negotiations to see what all can be done in the 90-day period and what has to be pushed for later, the source added.

On April 2, U.S. President Donald Trump announced reciprocal tariffs on most trade partners, including 26% on India, stating it was aimed at creating a level playing field for U.S. exporters who faced high tariffs in the targeted countries. Mr. Trump, however, put the tariffs on hold on April 9 for 90-days, till July 8, to negotiate trade deals. A 10% baseline tariff on most imports continues.

While India was the first country with which Mr. Trump agreed to negotiate a bilateral trade deal, as early as February when PM Narendra Modi visited Washington DC, the autumn (September-October 2025) deadline for delivering the first tranche may not be good enough to stall reciprocal tariffs further.

India may find it tough to offer sops beyond nuts and fruits due to sector sensitivity.

Focus areas

"It seems to avoid re-imposition of reciprocal tariffs on July 9, India may have to deliver something before the fall deadline to satisfy the U.S. That is exactly what the officials will discuss when they meet," the source said.

The U.S. has been vocal about demanding tariff cuts from India in a number of areas of its interest such as automobiles, motorbikes, alcohol, including bourbon whisky and agricultural products.

"While India may be in a position to offer tariff cuts for some industrial items, it will be difficult to offer much in agriculture beyond some fruits, nuts and a few more items as it is a highly sensitive sector," another source said.

The U.S continued to be India's top export destination in FY25 with exports of $86.51 billion. Imports stood at $45.33 billion. *(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

India dodges impact of China rare earth element curbs, but worries linger

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Indian imports of rare earth elements (REEs) such as dysprosium, gadolinium, lutetium and samarium have been quite small, shielding domestic supply chains – at least for a few months – from major disruptions, trade data shows. As a part of the U.S.-China trade war, Beijing imposed export restrictions for all countries on seven "heavy" REEs, which cannot be exported out of China by refiners unless specific authorisation is obtained.

The lack of direct impacts of China's curbs on India is due to the infancy or non-existence of many manufacturing activities that might need it. Semiconductor fabrication is still in the setting-up stages. Many advanced electronics, and defence manufacturing is largely in the same situation. While the Union government has placed an emphasis on securing access to critical minerals and REEs, direct use of the latter in manufacturing is sparse in India.

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday in response to a query on China's restrictions, "In our conversations with the industry, they feel confident that they can [manage]... one of the biggest lessons of COVID was to have a diverse supply chain."

So far, since many of these manufacturers are in relatively early stages of shifting production here, the quantities of REEs imported to India has been low. According to data shared by the Ministry of Mines earlier this month in Parliament (before China's export curbs were imposed), only 2,270 tonnes of REEs and compounds of REEs were brought into the country in 2023-24.

Long way ahead: India is at infancy of manufacturing that needs rare earths while chip fabrication is at the setting-up stage. REUTERS

"We may not get directly impacted since our chips [using REEs] come from U.S., Europe and China," says Ashwin Desikan, co-founder and CTO at Atsuya Technologies, a Chennai-based deep-tech firm working on Internet-of-Things and AI-related technologies that use imported components. "We may get indirectly affected if supplies to the U.S. are choked off." In India, "electronics manufacturing is just now picking up, with investments by Tata in Hosur and other belts ... most REE imports are for research and experiments, and not for production at large scale," he added.

Critical minerals

REEs are one of thirty substances that the Union government has listed as critical minerals, whose production and imports have been made a priority under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) taken up by the Ministry of Mines. Even before China's curbs, the government flagged over-reliance on Chinese suppliers as a problem that could have consequences in the future.

"Production and processing of many critical minerals are geographically concentrated, making global supply vulnerable to several risks," the ministry said in a presentation in January. "China's restrictions on certain critical minerals, the Russia-Ukraine War, and other issues highlight the fragility of critical mineral supply and the need for diversifying sources," the Ministry said. These vulnerabilities were last felt when China similarly restricted exports last year of antimony.

Under the Mission, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last year during the Union Budget presentation, the government will streamline permissions for exploratory activities, fund research, and conduct more auctions of mineral blocks. Much of this work is at the earliest of stages, though, and only some light REEs and sand minerals are close to operating at efficiencies-of-scale level.

Nippon India, ICICI MF top gainers in AUM in FY25

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

Nippon India MF, ICICI Prudential MF and Tata MF topped the list of mutual funds with the maximum gain in assets under management last fiscal year among the top 10 fund houses, driven by turbulence in the equity markets.

Nippon MF and ICICI MF have registered the highest growth of 29% each in AUM at ₹5.57 lakh crore and ₹8.79 lakh crore against ₹4.31 lakh crore and ₹6.83 lakh crore, respectively, logged in the same period last year.

Tata MF assets jumped 28% to ₹1.88 lakh crore (₹1.47 lakh crore), as per the Association of Mutual Funds in India data.

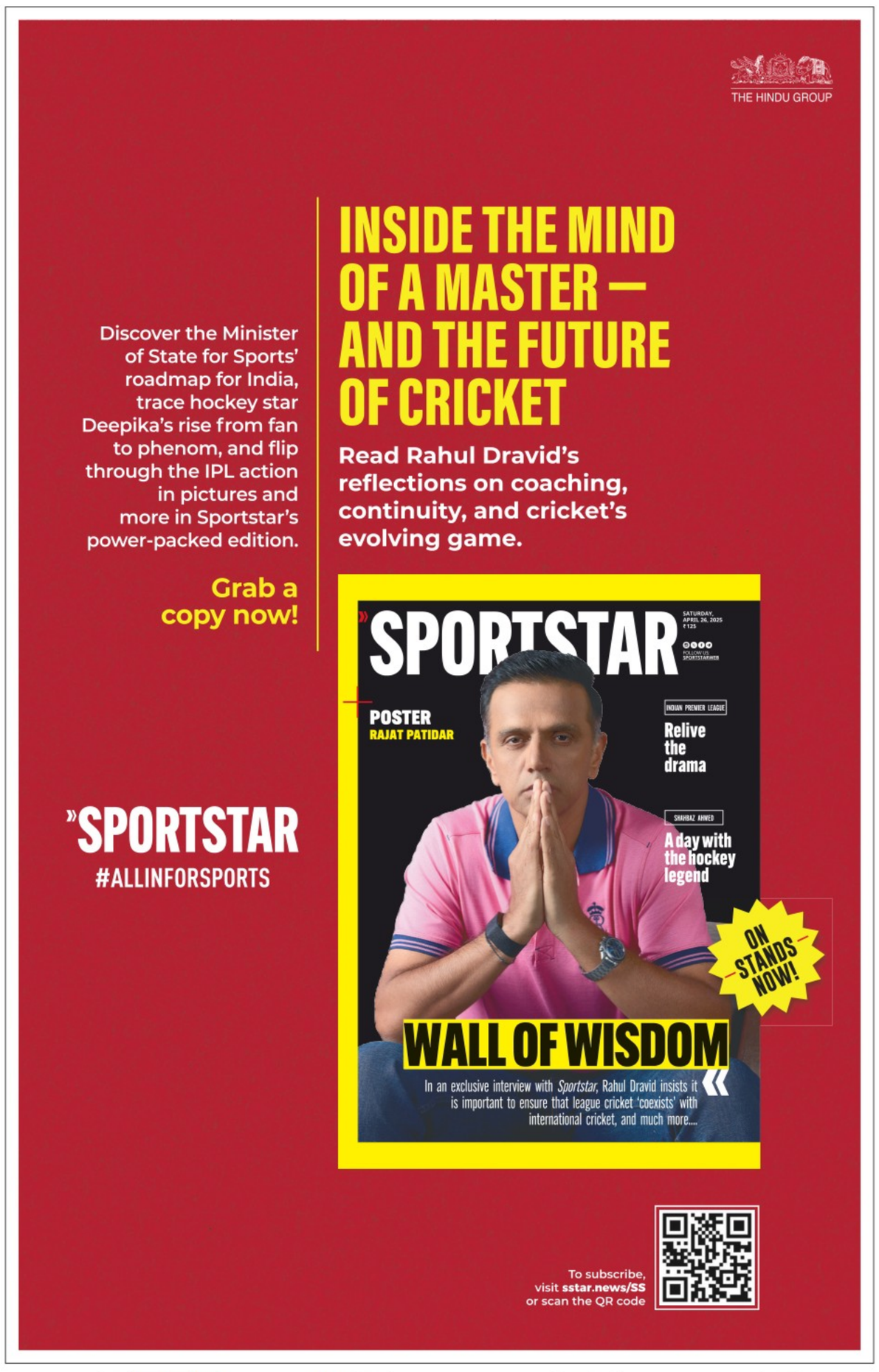
However, SBI MF topped the AUM table with a growth of 17% to ₹10.73 lakh crore (₹9.14 lakh crore) while HDFC MF maintained its third position with AUM of ₹7.73 lakh crore (₹6.13 lakh crore), an increase of 26%.

Motilal Oswal MF has more than doubled its assets to ₹92,988 crore (₹45,993 crore) while Zerodha MF asset jumped nearly nine fold to ₹4,854 crore (₹540 crore).

Industry AUM up 25%

Overall, the industry AUM had grown by 25% last fiscal to ₹67.42 lakh crore against ₹54.13 lakh crore logged in the same period last year. Despite the volatile market, the mop-up through new fund offers by MF industry rose 63% in FY25 to ₹1.08 lakh crore against ₹66,364 crore in FY24.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)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Trials demonstrate safety of stem cell therapy for Parkinson's

The Hindu Bureau

Two independent clinical trials demonstrate the safety of stem cell therapies for Parkinson's disease. The papers, published in *Nature*, investigate the use of cells derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells and human embryonic stem cells, respectively.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease characterised by the progressive loss of neurons that produce dopamine, a neurotransmitter. Cell therapy, specifically replenishing dopamine-producing neurons (dopaminergic) in the brain, could provide a potentially more effective treatment with fewer adverse effects.

To examine the safety and potential side effects of cell therapy for Parkinson's disease, researchers at Kyoto University, Japan conducted a phase I/II trial. Seven patients received transplantation of dopaminergic progenitors derived from human induced pluripotent stem cells into both sides of the brain. No serious adverse events were reported, and the transplanted cells produced dopamine without overgrowth or forming tumours. The researchers also observed a decrease in motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease (a secondary outcome of the study) in four of the six participants who continued the trial to efficacy evaluation while not taking their standard medication, and in five while taking medication. However, these results varied according to the measures used, with some measures showing minimal changes.

In a separate phase I clinical trial, researchers from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, explored the safety of a dopaminergic neuron progenitor cell product (bemdaneprocel) derived from human embryonic stem cells. Twelve patients received surgical transplantation of bemdaneprocel to the putamen on both sides of the brain. Five participants received a low dose and seven received a high dose. There were no severe adverse events related to the therapy during 18 months of follow-up. Some improvement in motor function (a secondary outcome of the study) was observed in patients in both the low-dose and high-dose cohorts. However, the degree of improvement varied across measured parameters.

NIV's unceasing refusal to share vital data before publication

NIV researchers prioritising paper publication over free and immediate access to genome sequence data and other vital information was once again seen in the case of an 11-year-old child infected with H5N1 in 2021

R. Prasad

A two-year-old girl from Narasaraopeta in Palnadu district, Andhra Pradesh, who was infected with H5N1 died on March 16, 2025; she was admitted to AIIMS-Mangalagiri on March 4. ICMR's Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) identified the virus as influenza A on March 7. On ICMR's direction, samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune for Influenza A virus subtyping. NIV identified the virus as N5N1, and ICMR alerted the State government on March 31 this year.

Even three weeks after NIV subtyped the virus as H5N1, there is no information about which clade the H5N1 virus belongs to. Determining the clade through phylogenetic analysis is a simple and automated procedure, and hence can be done immediately after genome sequencing.

NIV researchers' reluctance to share vital information or quickly deposit the genome sequence data in public databases is nothing new. Be it Zika, Nipah or monkeypox virus, the genome sequence data from NIV become available only when a paper about the virus is published in a scientific journal a year or two later; NIV posted two preprints of the monkeypox study results. Even during the pandemic, the genome sequence data of the first two SARS-CoV-2 cases detected in Kerala were posted by NIV in a public database – GISAID – a day after a news item flagging the issue was published on March 4, 2020 in *The Hindu*.

NIV researchers prioritising paper publication over free and immediate access to genome sequence data and other vital information was once again seen in the case of an 11-year-old child infected with H5N1 in 2021. On July 15, 2021, NIV researchers determined that the child from Gurugram, NCR region admitted in AIIMS Delhi on June 12, 2021 was infected with H5N1. The child died on July 12, 2021. While it is not known when the genome was sequenced and phylogenetic analysis was carried out, NIV researchers had submitted the genome sequence in GenBank in October 2021. But the sequence data was made publicly accessible only after eight months on June 2, 2022 when NIV researchers published the results in a journal. That the child was infected with H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a was known only when the paper was published.

In contrast, a 2.5-year-old girl who returned to Melbourne after visiting Kolkata between February 12 and February 29, 2024 and hospitalised on March 2, 2024 days after her return from India was found to be infected with H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a. The state Victorian Department of Health confirmed the case on May 18, 2024. Four days later on May 22, full information about the case, including the clade details, was shared with the WHO months before the results were published in January 2025. Most importantly, the genome sequence data was posted on GISAID, which is a public database, on May 22, 2024, the same day the WHO was informed.

There is a reason why it has become very important to know if the H5N1 virus found in the child in Palnadu district, Andhra Pradesh belongs to clade 2.3.2.1a. The clade 2.3.2.1a has suddenly gained more attention. The National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases in Bhopal identified reassortant H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a virus in three domestic cat samples collected on January 16 and January 24 this year from Chhindwara city in Madhya Pradesh. In stark contrast to NIV, NIHSAD researchers have quickly shared the details about the clade and the reassortant nature of the virus in a preprint posted on February 23, 2025.

Phylogenetic analysis indicated that the N5N1 virus from three cat samples are reassortant viruses. According to the preprint, "four gene segments were closely related to H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a viruses circulating in Bangladesh, while the remaining four segments clustered with clade 2.3.4.4b viruses". While the matrix segment clustered with H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b virus detected in a wild bird in South Korea, the polymerase gene complex grouped with H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b viruses detected in poultry and wild birds in Asia since 2022.

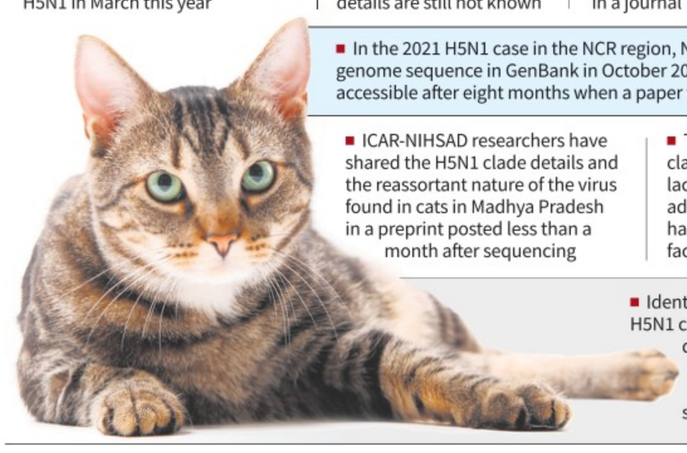
"Although cat viruses lacked classic mammalian adaptation markers they carried mutations associated with enhanced polymerase activity in mammalian cells and increased affinity for alpha 2-6 sialic acid receptors suggesting their potential role in facilitating infection in cats," they write. "The identification of reassortant H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a viruses in domestic cats in India highlights the urgent need for enhanced surveillance in domestic poultry, wild birds, and mammals, including humans, to track genomic diversity and molecular evolution of circulating strains."

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, as of February 20, 2025, H5N1 has been found in 99 cats and has killed 18 cats. "Since H5N1 has been found in domestic cats, there is increased risk of the virus spreading to humans due to increased chances of exposure," a researcher tells *The Hindu*. "Any mammalian spillover, which are cats in this case, and continued infection has a possibility to adapt to mammalian transmission (as in the case of cattle in the U.S.) and then eventually to humans by exposure."

Keeping the scientific community in the dark

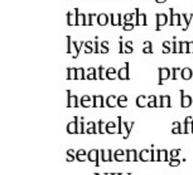
Prioritising paper publication over free and immediate access to vital information is passé

- A two-year-old girl from Narasaraopeta in Palnadu district, Andhra Pradesh, was infected with H5N1 in March this year
- Three weeks after NIV researchers subtyped the virus as H5N1, the clade details are still not known
- Novel virus or not, genome data become available only when NIV researchers publish a paper in a journal



- In the 2021 H5N1 case in the NCR region, NIV deposited the genome sequence in GenBank in October 2021. It became publicly accessible after eight months when a paper was published
- ICAR-NIHSAD researchers have shared the H5N1 clade details and the reassortant nature of the virus found in cats in Madhya Pradesh in a preprint posted less than a month after sequencing
- Though the H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a in cats lacks classic mammalian adaptation markers, it has some features that facilitate cat infection
- Identification of reassortant H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1a viruses in domestic cats in India highlights the urgent need for enhanced surveillance

Role played by coenzymes in human food



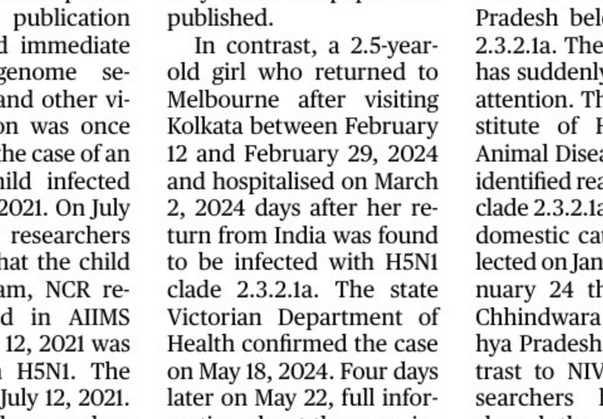
SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Enzymes are proteins that catalyse reactions in a cell, making metabolism efficient. For efficient functioning, many enzymes require some molecules as cofactors. These helper molecules are called coenzymes. Coenzymes are naturally occurring organic molecules that bind to and support the activity of enzymes. Coenzyme Q, also known as ubiquinone, is a molecule containing several isoprene units, which are antioxidants and offer stability against stress. Ubiquinone is present in every cell membrane and is crucial for energy production. It comes in 10 different types (CoQ1...Q10). Each one of them is a molecule in the respiratory chain as a water-insoluble, but lipid-soluble antioxidant. All these coenzymes play a vital role in the function of the mitochondrion, the major energy producers in the cell. In this article, we focus mainly on CoQ9 and CoQ10.

Most cereal crops produce CoQ9, which has nine isoprene units.

CoQ9 is rich in wheat, rice, oats, barley, corn, rye, and millet. It is also rich in bamboo, barley, and flowering plants such as cinnamon, avocado, and pepper.



CoQ9 is rich in wheat, rice, barley, corn, rye, millet. SANDEEP SAXENA

Importance of CoQ10

In humans, CoQ10 is a component of the mitochondrial electron transport chain, a process that generates most of the body's cellular energy. Organs such as the heart have high energy demands and contain high concentrations of CoQ10. CoQ9 is rich in our daily foods as it is predominant in rice, wheat, and maize. But we need more of CoQ10 for our health, since genetic factors, aging, and neurological problems require additional levels of this ubiquinone.

In 2008, Montini and coworkers from Milan, Italy, showed that supplementing CoQ10 helped patients who had neurological problems; results were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Similarly, in 2012, Shamima Ahmed and colleagues from the Institute of Neurology and National Hospital, London showed that infants with CoQ10 deficiency could be helped upon the addition of a ubiquinone analogue. And several dieticians and medical companies prescribe and sell drugs which are equivalent to CoQ10.

Producing CoQ10

In this connection, Kadawaki and others from the National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Ibaraki, Japan, showed in 2006 in *FEBS Letters* that rice plants can be genetically engineered to produce CoQ10. Here, the authors were able to engineer the gene called 'DdsA' in rice plants to produce CoQ10. And in 2010, the same group introduced this gene in rice plants, which have more sugar content, and more CoQ10 was produced, the yield being 1.3 to 1.6 times higher. And epigenetic engineering using the Nobel-winning technique, CRISPR-Cas9, which allows the editing of precise sites in the genome, has been tried successfully by Muneaki Nakamura and others (*Nature Cell Biology*, 2021)

'Gene-edited plants make jump from farm to factory' was the title given in the February 20, 2025, issue of the journal *Nature* in its Research Highlights selection, referring to the paper by Jing-Jing Xu and coauthors from the Centre of Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. In this paper, the authors studied hundreds of plant species, concentrating on CoQ1, the enzyme that synthesises the polyisoprenoid chain of CoQ. In rice, they genetically modified this enzyme by multiplex prime editing, a sophisticated CRISPR-based technique, to generate biofortified rice varieties that contain upto 75% CoQ10. Such a painstaking analysis has revealed how to engineer a variety of edible crops ('farm') in order to produce antioxidant supplements ('factory').

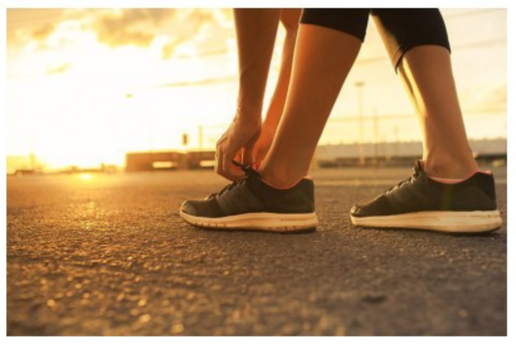
SNAPSHOTS

New study suggests the universe could be spinning

A new study suggests the universe may rotate extremely slowly. Researchers developed a mathematical model of the universe that added a tiny amount of rotation. It suggests the universe could rotate once every 500 billion years – too slow to detect easily, but enough to affect how space expands over time. The idea does not break any known laws of physics, and it might explain why measurements of the universe's growth do not quite agree. The next step is finding ways to spot signs of this cosmic spin.

This DNA sequences help learn what sets humans apart

Researchers have sequenced the complete genomes of six ape species. The results will also be key to analysing the genetic diversity of at-risk ape populations – all six species sequenced are listed as either endangered or critically endangered. Understanding the genomes of apes is crucial because it gives geneticists insights into human evolution and the genetic factors that differentiate us from other apes, Kateryna Makova, an evolutionary geneticist at the Pennsylvania State University, told *Nature News*.



Brisk walking pace lowers risk of heart rhythm abnormalities

A brisk walking pace, and the amount of time spent at this speed, may lower the risk of atrial fibrillation, tachycardia (rapid heartbeat), and bradycardia (very slow heartbeat), as per a study. A slow pace was defined as walking at less than 4.8 km an hour; steady/average pace as 4.8-6.4 km per hour; and a brisk pace as more than 6.4 km per hour. A brisk walking pace was associated with lower (35% and 43%, respectively) risks of all heart rhythm abnormalities.

Question Corner

More common

How common are giant viruses?

For the first time in Finland, researchers have isolated a giant viruswhich was named Jyvaskylavirus. The discovery shows that giant viruses are more common in northern regions than researchers have thought. It also illustrates that there are still many structures whose origins and functions have not been properly studied. In recent years, giant viruses have been discovered that can be as large as bacteria. These viruses infect amoebas and other microscopic organisms. Most of the giant viruses identified so far have been found in Europe and South America, and their life cycles and distribution are poorly understood. The giant virus, named Jyvaskylavirus, was discovered when environmental samples were mixed with a culture of the amoeba *Acanthamoeba castellanii*. Researchers elucidated the genome and structure of the Jyvaskylavirus, which was found to be related to Marseilleviruses previously isolated from France. Other new giant viruses were also detected in environmental samples.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Does the planet K2-18b show signs of life?

What have scientists discovered in the new research? Which molecule indicates the possible presence of life?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

On April 16, an international research team uploaded a paper in which it reported that the distant exoplanet K2-18b may be habitable. The claim was met with cautious excitement by astronomers. While finding places in the universe that could harbour life is a vital quest in the field, experts – including the team that made the finding – are cautious because many similar claims in the past have had to be retracted after closer inspection.

What is K2-18b?

K2-18b is an exoplanet – a planet outside the solar system. It's located 124 lightyears away from the earth in the constellation Leo, orbiting the star K2-18. It is 5.2-times wider and roughly nine-times more massive than the earth, dimensions that suggest it likely possesses a hydrogen-rich atmosphere. The amount of stellar radiation it receives from its star is comparable to what the earth receives from the sun. It was discovered by the Kepler telescope in 2015. In 2019, the Hubble Space Telescope found that its atmosphere contains signs of water vapour. Four years later, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) also detected signs of carbon dioxide and methane. Scientists had previously shown in modelling studies that it's possible to find methane and carbon dioxide and no ammonia in a hydrogen-rich atmosphere if (but not only if) there is a liquid water ocean on a planet's surface.

K2-18b is an exoplanet – a planet outside the solar system. It's located 124 lightyears away from the earth in the constellation Leo, orbiting the star K2-18

What kind of planet might K2-18b be?

According to the new work, K2-18b might be a Hycean world: covered with an ocean overlaid by a hydrogen-rich atmosphere. The JWST is designed to study such planets better than other telescopes can, although K2-18b itself isn't confirmed to be Hycean. Some computer models suggest it may also have a stratosphere and some carbon oxides and cyanide in the middle atmosphere. Researchers have also said its surface conditions may be close to the runaway greenhouse threshold – when the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere prevents any heat from escaping the surface. This is why Venus is a hellscape.

In the new paper, the team reported the presence of two compounds – either dimethyl sulphide (DMS) or dimethyl disulphide (DMDS) – in K2-18b's atmosphere. Scientists have suggested that DMS could be a biomarker, a sign of life, on exoplanets. DMS on earth is made mostly in the oceans. Phytoplankton produce a molecule called dimethylsulphoniopropionate. When they die, enzymes break up the molecule to release DMS. It's also emitted when bacteria break up plant matter. In 2015, researchers reported that 76% of soil bacteria contain a gene that allows them to produce DMS.

Is K2-18b really habitable?

Experts have said the only way to find extraterrestrial life is for them to directly detect it. This is why NASA launched its Clipper mission in 2024 to study Jupiter's moon Europa. Attempts to look for conditions suitable for life (that too only life as we know it) and the presence of specific molecules from a distance can only be suggestive of habitable conditions.

Many uncertainties in these studies also arise from astronomers' instruments and the accuracy of models they use to simulate conditions in outer space. Hitherto unknown chemical processes may be capable of creating the molecules scientists consider to be biomarkers. Or JWST not being able to detect certain compounds could mean they're present at concentrations below its detection threshold.

In 2023, the team had reported detecting a hint of DMS on K2-18b; now it has said the compound may actually be present in 1,000-times greater quantities than on the earth. Since DMS is shortlived, something on the surface could be constantly producing it. However, the paper only reported a significant detection of DMS or DMDS, not DMS alone.

Scientists have also been modelling the physical conditions on K2-18b to check for alternative explanations for its chemistry. One study in 2023 said "most of the current Hycean world observational targets are not likely to sustain a liquid water ocean." In 2024, a U.S. team published a paper saying the JWST observations can be explained by K2-18b being "a gas-rich mini-Neptune" that "does not need a biosphere or other unknown source of methane to explain the data". In January, an international team reported that "a comprehensive reanalysis" of K2-18b data collected by JWST confirmed the presence of methane but yielded "no statistically significant or reliable evidence for carbon dioxide or DMS." This conclusion doubted whether K2-18b was a Hycean world.

Several false alarms – including the TRAPPIST-1 system, the exoplanet WASP-12b – have taught scientists to scrutinise such claims.

Will trade war lead to import surge in India?

Which sectors are likely to be affected because of President Trump's tariffs and retaliatory measures taken by countries such as China? What are the safeguards in place against dumping? Why has a provisional 12% 'safeguard duty' been imposed on certain steel imports?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

U.S. President Donald Trump's 'liberation day' tariffs and China's retaliatory tariffs have induced fears in India about impacted countries re-routing their exports to the large consumer market. Reports say the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is wary of any potential surge in imports of farm produce from the U.S. and manufactured goods from China, Vietnam and Indonesia, among other countries.

What is the concern about dumping?

With President Trump's tariff regime making it difficult for countries to sell in the U.S., they may potentially look to India's large consumer market to dispose of their goods. This is especially true of goods which are either being extensively produced in their factories beyond their domestic consumption or are of considerable importance to their overall economic and/or export ambitions.

In light of the present circumstances, two noteworthy examples, where this dynamic may play out entail Bangladesh's readymade garments and textile industry and Indonesia's electronic equipment industry. The former is the world's second largest garment manufacturer, with the sector accounting for 80% of its exports. Indonesia's electronics industry has been a key driver of their economic growth and employment, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Now with increased tariffs, the countries could be in for a potential lookout for alternative markets to sell their products.

According to observers, China too could be looking for avenues to deal with its manufacturing overcapacity. The World Trade Organization (WTO)'s trade review of China, published in July last year, inferred it to have grown into a "major global manufacturing hub in recent decades". It attributed this to abundant and productive labour, high-quality infrastructure alongside trade and investment liberalisation, among other factors. However, member countries felt that the subsidies accorded by the Chinese government, particularly to state-owned enterprises, "distorted global markets and promoted overcapacity". The WTO observed in the review that manufactured goods accounted for over 95% of China's exports. In March, data from Chinese Customs pointed to the U.S. as its biggest export destination. However, now Beijing may be looking towards other markets.

'Sectors at most risk include chemicals, steel, aluminium, textiles, plastics, rubber, electronics and consumer goods'

Neck and neck: Flags of the U.S. and China in San Francisco, on April 18. AP

Why is U.S. farm produce important?

This is one arena where the tariff threat may have a potential reverse effect on Washington with repercussions for India as well. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, China was the third largest export destination for their agricultural products. Exports, however, declined 15% on a year-over-year basis in 2024 to $24.7 billion because of "rising competition" to U.S. soyabean and corn from South America. Considering Beijing's retaliatory tariff on the U.S., the North American country's produce, especially soyabean and corn, could also seek a market in India.

Which sectors will get affected?

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of the think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), sectors at most risk include chemicals, steel, aluminium, textiles, plastics, rubber, electronics and consumer goods. Several of these are already under investigation with the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).

An important example is the domestic steel sector where sentiments have been marred because of dumping-induced downward revision in prices. Preliminary findings of the anti-dumping investigation, published in March, attributed "trade diversion due to protective measures" imposed by the U.S. and EU (starting 2018) as the "major cause" for surge in imports of certain steel products. The DGTR reasoned that large steel producing economies such as Japan, South Korea and China held high steel producing capacities that exceeded their domestic consumption. Thus, to curb the spike in imports, the DGTR recommended imposing a provisional safeguard duty of 12% for 200 days in March. In the chemical sector, the DGTR concluded earlier this year that China was dumping titanium oxide, used in cosmetics and paints, into the country and "injuring the domestic sector".

Mohit Singla, founder-chairman at the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), told *The Hindu* that consumer products particularly will face "a lot of dumping". More importantly, however, Mr. Singla indicated any potential dumping would particularly bother small industries (such as textiles) which are sparsely distributed and difficult to organise together. "For smaller industries and MSMEs, it is almost impossible for them to get together to fight surge in imports unless the government takes *suo motu* cognisance of such imports rising," he observed. This contrasts with larger industries, with lesser players and being closely monitored, joining hands to collaborate to seek safeguard duties.

In a larger context, Mr. Srivastava held that while the risks from dumping are real, they are likely to be manageable. He points to India regularly imposing anti-dumping duties on products from China, Korea and EU, among others, and facing similar actions abroad. "These duties typically cover a small share of total imports, so while dumping may increase in certain sectors, the broader economic impact should stay limited thanks to existing safeguards," he stated.

Can the dynamics be reversed?

Observers have indicated that it is unlikely that Indian firms would be able to null the impact of dumping by improving quality of their products or offering competitive pricing. Mithileshwar Thakur, secretary general at the Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC), explained to *The Hindu* that dumping cannot be countered by competitive pricing because the margins tend to be "huge". He held that only trade remedial measures such as safeguards, countervailing measures and/or anti-dumping duties would be of help. "(By any pricing revision or other means) you can increase the competitiveness by 10-15% and never 100%. It is impossible to counter dumping by improving competitiveness," he stated.

Mr. Thakur said the APEC has already taken up concerns about potential dumping in the sector with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. An anti-dumping duty proposes to rectify the distortive effect of unfair trade practices that entail goods being exported to another country at prices lower than their normal value with a predatory intent, in other words, dumping. Safeguard duties strive to mitigate the impact of a sudden surge in imports. Mr. Singla held that seeking anti-dumping duties typically entail an "exhaustive" and quasi-judicial process. He suggests looking at a safeguard duty to address a surge in imports which can be "simply" placed by assessing trends over a six-month period.

Why are civil disputes being criminalised?

What is the perception about civil cases? Why is there a belief that a criminal case will lead to a more effective legal remedy? Does using the criminal tag for a civil dispute amount to abuse of the law? What have the courts ruled? Where does the remedy lie?

Soibam Rocky Singh

The story so far:

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna recently came down heavily on the Uttar Pradesh government over the growing trend of ordinary civil disputes being converted into criminal cases. His remarks came during the hearing of an appeal filed by two individuals, facing a cheque bounce case, who were also slapped with criminal charges including breach of trust, intimidation, and criminal conspiracy.

What were the CJI's remarks?

The Chief Justice observed that "every day, civil suits are being converted to criminal cases. It is absurd. Disputes over civil issues cannot be turned into offences... There is a complete breakdown of rule of law in Uttar Pradesh. Converting a civil matter into a criminal case is not acceptable." The Indian legal system has been witnessing a troubling trend of the increasing misuse of criminal law in matters that are fundamentally civil in nature. This tendency has been seen in civil disputes, such as money recovery, cheque bounce cases, contractual disagreements, inheritance, property partitions, commercial transactions and others. Many of these types of cases are increasingly being given the colour of a criminal dispute, often to create pressure on the opposing party.

Many civil cases are increasingly being given the colour of a criminal dispute to create pressure on the opposing party

GETTY IMAGES

What is the modus operandi?

A common tactic seen in most of these cases are the accusations that the opposite party had dishonest intentions from the very beginning of a civil arrangement – such as a loan, contract, or agreement. For context, if Mr. A lends money to Mr. B which Mr. B fails to repay, the matter would traditionally fall under civil jurisdiction. However, if Mr. A comes up with the claim that Mr. B never intended to repay the loan and obtained the money through deceit, Mr. A can pursue criminal charges under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code, now covered under Section 318 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Why is this happening?

Legal experts believe that many people view civil law as an ineffective remedy, largely due to the protracted nature of most civil cases. This perception is seen in several family disputes also, where prolonged litigation frequently results in the irreparable breakdown of marriages or family relationships. There is also an impression that involving someone in a criminal case can lead to a quicker settlement. In many cases, people with influence, and/or by incentivising Police officials get their FIR registered to create pressure on the other party.

As per the National Judicial Data Grid, there are currently 1,08,38,375 civil cases pending in District Courts across India. Over 68% of all civil cases pending before the trial courts are more than one year old.

Additionally, out of the 4.52 crore pending cases in District Courts, 76% – or 3.44 crore – are criminal cases.

What have the courts said?

As early as January 2000, in *G. Sagar Suri versus State of UP*, the Supreme Court had cautioned, "It is to be seen if a matter, which is essentially of civil nature, has been given a cloak of criminal offence. Criminal proceedings are not a short cut of other remedies available in law. Before issuing process a criminal court has to exercise a great deal of caution. For the accused it is a serious matter."

A nuanced look at the complexities of distinguishing between civil and criminal disputes, where allegations of fraud were involved, was done by the apex court in May, 2024, in *C. Subbiah @ Kadambur Jayaraj versus The Superintendent of Police*. In this case, a government school teacher, who had prior involvement in real estate, filed a complaint alleging fraud in a series of land transactions, alleging the opposite party had duped him under the pretence of lucrative real estate investments. The teacher claimed he was persuaded to register several properties in the names of the opposite party, based on assurances that he would receive both land and profits in return. After a dispute arose over profit sharing, he complained that the opposite party was not only committing a breach of trust but also intimidating him. The apex court took note of the fact that the opposite party had already passed on some plots as well as part profits from the land deals to the teacher. It observed that there is no material which can show that the accused indulged in intimidation of the teacher.

"It cannot be doubted that a dispute which is purely civil in nature has been given a colour of criminal prosecution alleging fraud and criminal breach of trust by misusing the tool of criminal law," the apex court observed.

What is the way forward?

In the *Indian Oil Corpn. versus NEPC India Ltd.* case of 2006, the Supreme Court made it clear that "while no one with a legitimate cause or grievance should be prevented from seeking remedies available in criminal law, a complainant who initiates or persists with a prosecution, being fully aware that the criminal proceedings are unwarranted and his remedy lies only in civil law, should himself be made accountable, at the end of such misconceived criminal proceedings, in accordance with law."

The court also recommended a practical solution to discourage such abuse of criminal process: "One positive step that can be taken by the courts, to curb unnecessary prosecutions and harassment of innocent parties, is to exercise their power under Section 250 Cr.P.C. (compensation for accusations made without reasonable cause) more frequently, where they discern malice or frivolousness or ulterior motives on the part of the complainant."

Caught in the tech cold war

Nvidia

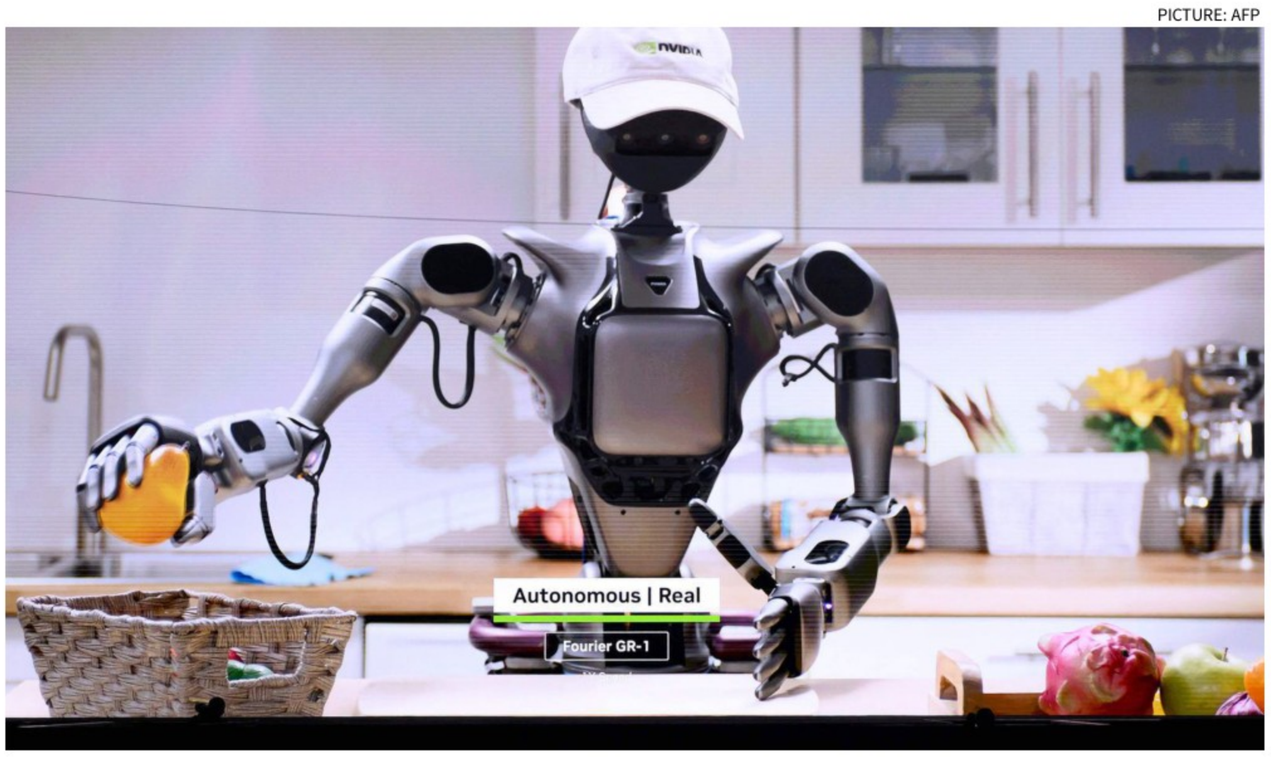
Under pressure from Washington to restrict the sales of chips to China amid a heightening global competition between the two superpowers, the world's most valuable semiconductor company stares at a future in which it must pivot aggressively back toward domestic and allied markets

John Xavier

By the time Nvidia disclosed in a regulatory filing that the U.S. government had imposed new licensing requirements on the sale of H20 chips to China, including Hong Kong and Macau, the chipmaker was already reeling. The decision, delivered by the Trump administration, would abruptly end shipments of its China-focused AI chips and saddle the company with a $5.5 billion hit to revenue due to unsellable inventory. For the world's most valuable semiconductor company and the undisputed leader in artificial intelligence chipmaking, this was not just a commercial disruption, it was a geopolitical collision.

This moment represents a dramatic escalation in the long-running tussle between the U.S. and China over control of critical technologies. And Nvidia, caught in the middle, finds itself facing the limits of doing business in both worlds.

PICTURE: AFP



The AI engine

Founded in 1993, Nvidia was initially known for its graphics processing units (GPUs), which powered video games with increasingly lifelike visuals. But by the 2010s, its chips found new utility far beyond gaming. Researchers discovered that Nvidia's parallel processing architecture was ideal for training large language models (LLMs), a breakthrough that transformed Nvidia from a gaming company into the backbone of the AI revolution.

The company's H100 and A100 chips have become industry standards for training LLMs and running generative AI tasks. With a market share estimated to be over 80% in AI data centre chips, Nvidia has fuelled the rise of companies such as OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google DeepMind.

Nvidia's chips have also been used by Chinese firms such as Tencent, Alibaba, and ByteDance to build their own AI systems. For years, China accounted for a significant portion of Nvidia's business. About a fifth of its revenue in 2023, or $17 billion, came from chip sales to companies in China. That business has became more fraught as tensions between Washington and Beijing grew.

In 2022, the Biden administration began tightening export controls on advanced semiconductors, citing national security concerns, with a singular goal of preventing American technology from enabling China's military ambitions, including autonomous weapons systems, surveillance tools, and cyber warfare capabilities.

Nvidia responded by creating "downgraded" versions of its flagship chips by slowing down their performance with hardware and software tweaks, and also specifically building a new one, the H20 chip. These chips, known to be specifically designed for China, allowed Nvidia to keep a foothold in the market while technically adhering to U.S. restrictions.

That workaround now appears to have been closed. The Trump administration's latest move requires Nvidia to obtain licences to sell even these downgraded AI chips. The new rules also affect Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) and come just weeks after U.S. lawmakers pressed the White House to halt Chinese tech firms' access to Nvidia products, citing concerns that the chips were being stockpiled by companies with ties to China's military.

Nearly $16 billion worth of H20 chips are currently pending export to Chinese tech giants, including Alibaba, ByteDance and Tencent. The White House's decision has hit Nvidia's stock hard, triggering a sharp selloff. But the longer-term impact may be more significant than a temporary dip in valuation.

The black swan moment

At the heart of the new urgency is a Chinese company that seemingly came out of nowhere: DeepSeek. In January, it released an AI reasoning model called DeepSeek R1 that it claimed was trained for only $6 million, which is a fraction of the cost associated with U.S. equivalents like OpenAI's o1 reasoning model.

What truly alarmed U.S. officials was how DeepSeek did it. According to the U.S. congressional investigations, DeepSeek reportedly acquired tens of thousands of Nvidia GPUs through intermediaries in places such as Singapore and used techniques like distillation, allegedly including proprietary OpenAI data, to rapidly develop its model. Analysts estimate the company had access to as many as 60,000 chips, some of which should have been restricted under U.S. export laws.

Reports also revealed that several of DeepSeek's researchers have connections to Chinese military institutions, including defence labs associated with nuclear weapons development and organisations already sanctioned by the U.S. government. These ties deepened the suspicion that DeepSeek's rapid rise wasn't just a tech story, but a strategic threat.

The Trump administration responded by not only tightening rules for Nvidia and AMD, but also considering broader penalties against DeepSeek, including blacklisting it from acquiring American technology and potentially restricting access to its services for U.S. citizens and entities.

For Nvidia, the developments are an existential test of its global business model. The company has worked for years to remain compliant with U.S. laws while still selling to China, the world's second-largest AI market. But as restrictions multiply and political scrutiny intensifies, that balancing act is becoming impossible.

Nvidia now faces a future in which it must pivot aggressively back toward domestic and allied markets. It has pledged to invest $500 billion in U.S.-based AI infrastructure, including opening a server manufacturing facility in Houston and partnering with chip packaging firms in Arizona.

Still, the company's China withdrawal could have lasting consequences. Analysts warn that if Nvidia pulls back, Chinese firms like Huawei could fill the gap. Already, Huawei is developing its own AI chips and could soon offer a homegrown alternative to Nvidia's dominance. Losing market share in China not only negatively impacts Nvidia's financial performance but also poses a potential threat of establishing a global competitor.

The path ahead

In Washington, the crackdown has bipartisan support. The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party has opened its first investigation into Nvidia's sales across Asia, requesting detailed records on thousands of chip transactions.

Meanwhile, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has pledged to increase export control enforcement, declaring that there will a special, focused type of tariff on semiconductors.

The implications go far beyond Nvidia. ASML, the Dutch maker of advanced chip manufacturing equipment, and AMD have also felt the ripple effects. What's unfolding is a global reshaping of the semiconductor industry that is driven as much by geopolitics as by silicon.

For now, Nvidia's future will be determined not only by how well it continues to innovate, but by how it navigates the volatile terrain of U.S.-China competition.

The company that once simply made better graphics cards is now a symbol of the AI arms race, and a test case for what happens when technology, commerce, and geopolitics collide.

THE GIST

- In 2022, the Biden administration began tightening export controls on advanced chips, with a singular goal of preventing U.S. technology from enabling China's military ambitions
- Nvidia responded by creating 'downgraded' versions of its flagship chips, and also specifically building a new one, the H20 chip, for the Chinese markets
- But the Trump administration's latest move requires Nvidia to obtain licences to sell even these downgraded AI chips

A firm hand

B.R. Gavai

The second Dalit to be the CJI, the judge takes over at a time when the judiciary is facing criticism for overreach and allegations of corruption

Krishnadas Rajagopal

In March, Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, who has been recommended for appointment as the 52nd Chief Justice of India, travelled to Manipur with a team of Supreme Court judges to personally interact with the victims of the prolonged ethnic conflict.

While the judges spent hours at medical camps distributing relief materials and launching legal aid camps organised by the National Legal Services Authority, Justice Gavai recalled one particular instance which touched his heart. A woman came forward and greeted the judges with a beaming "welcome to your home" message. Justice Gavai said the judges, often taunted by the public and detractors for living in ivory towers, went to Manipur as messengers of peace and goodwill. The few words of welcome marked a moment of "great learning".

Born in a Maharashtrian family immersed in social activism, Justice Gavai drew inspiration from the teachings of B.R. Ambedkar and the tenets of the Constitution. His father, Ramkrishna Suryabhan 'Dadasaheb' Gavai, who had served as parliamentarian and former Governor of Kerala and Bihar, was a prominent leader of the Ambedkar movement.

The senior judge, who would be only the second Dalit to be the CJI, said one of the greatest debates during the framing of the Constitution was whether there was an imbalance of power between the Centre and the States. One faction believed the Centre was getting more power, while the other lot felt power tilted more towards the States. Justice Gavai said Dr. Ambedkar had answered both factions by pointing to the message of unity in the Constitution.

The recommendation of Justice Gavai as the next CJI for a tenure of over six months till his retirement on November 23 has come at a time when the judiciary is facing criticism for 'overreach' and allegations of corruption and lack of transparency.

The court has been blamed of judicial overreach by issuing a mandamus to the President to follow a timeline while clearing Bills in the Tamil Nadu Governor case. The controversy of the alleged discovery of half-burnt currency in the official residence of High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, is awaiting the inquiry committee report. Recent days have seen the Supreme Court troubled by the sexist observations coming out of Allahabad High Court Bench in cases involving sexual violence against women.

Justice Gavai conducts his court with a firm hand. He does not mince words when lawyers, however distinguished, interrupt him during the dictation of an order in open court. A dry refrain "then you pass the order" usually has the desired effect on such occasions.

Momentous judgments

In the past five years as a Supreme Court judge, Justice Gavai was part of several momentous judgments. These include upholding the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and striking down of the electoral bonds scheme.

Justice Gavai, while confirming the right of States to sub-classify Scheduled Castes, had noted it was time to take a call on exempting the 'creamy layer' of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from reservation benefits.

Recent hearings in the Supreme Court have seen the judge steer the course of closely-watched cases with a steady hand, taking decisions without delay while refusing to defer orders to another day.

Some of these decisions have been tough. They include delivering a blow to the 'bulldozer culture'. The judge had compared the "chilling sight of a bulldozer demolishing a building" to an era of lawlessness when might was right.

Similarly, a Saturday night in July 2023 had seen the judge head straight to court from a cultural programme to protect activist–Teesta Setalvad from immediate surrender.

Justice Gavai is expected to deliver a significant judgment on the powers of the Speaker while deciding petitions seeking the disqualification of legislators under the anti-defection law. The judge had voiced in court the need to set time limits for Speakers, who are often accused of political partisanship.

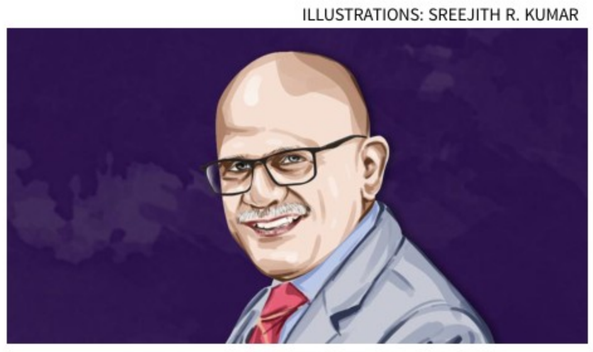
Fight to the finish

Sadanand Date

For the NIA chief, the extradition of Tahawwur Rana to India was a critical moment of his investigation into the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



He is "one of the brightest gems" in the galaxy of IPS officers, retired supercop J.F. Ribeiro had said about Sadanand Date, the current chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). A decorated IPS officer and survivor of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Mr. Date, who keeps a low profile, is now leading the high-stakes NIA investigation into Tahawwur Rana's alleged role in the 26/11 attacks.

Mr. Date has been inextricably linked to the 26/11 terror attacks case at key junctures, and possibly has a detailed questionnaire ready for Tahawwur Rana, who was extradited to India from the U.S. earlier this month.

A no-nonsense officer, a man of integrity, an institution-builder, a thorough professional with deep insight and interest in policing, is how Mr. Date is described by those who have worked with him.

From working as a newspaper delivery boy in his childhood to earning a PhD in economic offences and becoming one of the country's most reputed counter-terror experts, Mr. Date's life is a testament to courage, and public service, says close friend and fellow IPS officer Atulchandra Kulkarni, who recently retired from service.

"Sadanand Date has functioned as a senior police officer in very difficult times, when loyalty to the party in power takes precedence over loyalty to the Constitution and the law. He overcame poverty as a child and cracked the UPSC examination to enter the august portals of the IPS," Julio Ribeiro wrote of him in 2024. Mr. Date had fought Ajmal Kasab and Ismail Khan, the 26/11 killers, and saved the lives of women and children at Mumbai's Cama hospital where they were to be taken as hostages. He was conferred the President's Police Medal for Gallantry for his heroic role during the 26/11 terror attacks.

"He helped bring judicial transparency during his tenure as the Joint Secretary in the Centre at the Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice. The deradicalisation programme implemented by him as the ATS chief of Maharashtra is hailed as a sustainable model. In his 35-year long policing career, he has laid down several SOPs [standard operating procedures] which were later adopted by the Maharashtra Police in a large scale," said Mr. Kulkarni.

As the Joint Secretary of the Department of Justice, Mr. Date oversaw a pilot programme for the active integration of two platforms in Telengana where CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) records were smoothly integrated with eCourts system and the data of one was consumed by another.

Versatile career

From building a new commissionerate from scratch, to implementing the anti-Maoist operations in Maharashtra, he has handled several key responsibilities. He has been at the helm of the elite Force One (a specialised counter-terrorism unit of the Mumbai Police) when it was founded, and has headed the Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police.

A Fullbright fellow, he has worked with the New York Police Department to study the investigation and prosecution of white-collar and organised crimes. He has also worked with the Central Bureau of Investigation.

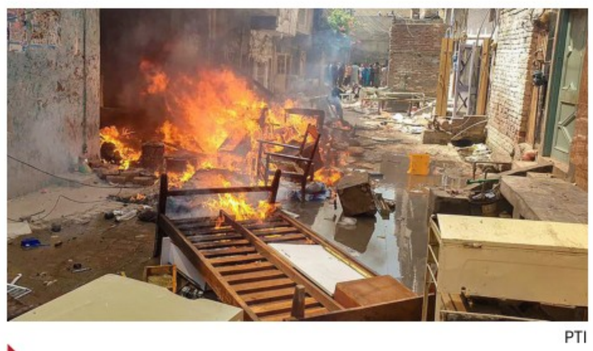
Hailing from Pune, Mr. Date overcame poverty by doing odd jobs. "His father passed away when he was in Grade 8. He had to work as a newspaper vendor. His mother used to cook at other people's houses so her three sons could complete their education," said senior journalist and childhood friend Shailendra Paranjpe.

"He is punctual, and respects everyone, irrespective of their position in the hierarchy. I have had the good fortune to work with him when the Mira-Bhayandar Vasai-Virar Commissionerate was established under him," said Amol Mandve, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Khed, Pune Rural.

As the chief of the federal anti-terrorism body, the challenges in the North-Eastern States, the dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir and the ongoing probe into the 26/11 attacks, along with the threat of terrorism, are some of the key challenges that stare at him.

LAHORE

Pak. court awards death sentence to Christian man for blasphemy



PTI

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has awarded the death sentence to a Christian man for committing blasphemy and implicating two fellow Christians in a false (blasphemy) case that caused anti-Christain riots in Faisalabad city of Punjab province in 2023. The court acquitted two others for want of evidence. PTI

WASHINGTON

U.S. top court pauses deportation of Venezuelans from Texas facility

AFP

The U.S. Supreme Court on Saturday paused the Trump administration's deportation of alleged Venezuelan gang members under an 18th-century law. The order came after rights lawyers filed an emergency appeal to halt the deportation of migrants currently held in a facility in the southern state of Texas. AFP

DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill more than 90 people in 48 hours

REUTERS

Israeli strikes in Gaza have killed more than 90 people in the last 48 hours, as Israeli troops ramp up attacks to pressure Hamas to release its hostages and disarm. The dead include 15 persons who were killed overnight, among them women and children, some of whom were sheltering in a designated humanitarian zone. AP

MOSCOW

Putin announces 'Easter truce' till Sunday midnight in Ukraine war

REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday announced an Easter truce in the conflict in Ukraine starting Saturday evening and lasting till midnight on Sunday. The short-term ceasefire proposal from Russia comes as U.S. President Donald Trump has been pressing both Moscow and Kyiv to agree a truce. AFP

U.S., Iran plan to meet again in a week after second round of talks concludes

The Oman-mediated talks held in Rome lasted about four hours in a 'constructive' atmosphere, with nuclear issue being the only topic raised; Tehran says the two sides managed to reach a better understanding on a series of principles and goals

Agence France-Presse
ROME

The United States and Iran on Saturday concluded a second round of high-stakes talks on Tehran's nuclear programme, agreeing to meet again in a week's time, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Oman-mediated talks in Rome lasted about four hours, according to Iranian state television, which described the atmosphere as "constructive".

"The two sides agreed to resume indirect talks at a technical level over the next few days and subsequently continue at the level of two senior negotiators next Saturday," April 26, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on X.

Middle ground: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani in Rome on Saturday. AFP

Iran later added that the third round of talks would take place in Oman, returning to the site of the initial dialogue a week ago.

Those were the first discussions at such a high level between the foes since U.S. President Donald Trump abandoned a landmark nuclear accord in 2018.

Western countries including the United States have long accused Iran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons – an allegation Tehran has consistently denied, insisting that its programme is for peaceful civilian purposes.

Images broadcast by the state TV showed Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arriving in the Italian capital, with U.S. West Asia envoy Steve Witkoff also expected to participate.

Mr. Araghchi later described the discussions as a "good meeting" that yielded progress. "This time we managed to reach a better understanding on a series of principles and goals," he told state TV. He also told the Tasnim news agency that the nuclear issue was the only topic raised.

Mr. Baqaei said the delegations had been "in two different rooms" at the Omani ambassador's residence, with Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi passing messages between them.

Three months after he took power, Trump is far from ending the Ukraine war

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

Sifting through ruins: A Ukrainian soldier inspects the remains of a missile following a Russian strike in Kharkiv on Friday. AFP

During his campaign, Donald Trump famously claimed that, if elected, he would end the war in Ukraine within 24 hours. To his credit, Mr. Trump, after returning to the White House in January, launched a peace initiative. But three months after Mr. Trump assumed office, there was no significant progress towards a lasting, comprehensive ceasefire.

The Trump administration's growing frustration over its inability to achieve a breakthrough was evident in the remarks of Marco Rubio, the U.S. Secretary of State, on Friday. "If it's not possible to end the war in Ukraine we need to move on," Mr. Rubio stated after talks with European diplomats in Paris. "It's not our war. We have other priorities to focus on," he said. Meanwhile, in Moscow, Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesperson, announced that a 30-day pause on attacks on Ukraine's energy facilities had expired.

U.S. views

Why does the diplomatic path to ending the war remain so difficult? The answer lies in the fundamentally divergent positions of the parties involved. Mr. Trump and his top officials have argued that the Ukraine war holds limited relevance to America's security. Mr. Trump, who doesn't subscribe to the trans-Atlantic worldview of America's liberal internationalists, is also seeking a reset in America's ties with Russia. But such a reset remains impossible without first bringing the Ukraine war to an end.

Russian position

The Russians appear to recognise this is a rare opportunity to shut down the war, and are eager to engage the Trump administration. But if Mr. Trump's focus is on achieving a ceasefire, what Russia seeks is a "comprehensive" peace agreement. Russia has put forward three core demands. First, Ukraine must remain a neutral country (meaning, no NATO membership and no NATO troops stationed on its territory); second, the five oblasts that Russia has annexed (Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson) must be formally recognised as part of Russia, and Western sanctions be lifted; third, Ukraine must be demilitarised. The Russians believe they currently hold strategic momentum on the battlefield and are unwilling to surrender that advantage for a ceasefire.

Then there are Ukraine and its European allies. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the Ukrainian President, finds the Russian demands difficult to swallow. Having already lost significant portions of Ukraine's territories, he is unwilling to go down in history as the leader who legitimised those losses. Mr. Zelenskyy continues to seek credible security guarantees from the West and wants to retain the right to rearm and remobilise Ukraine's forces.

Several European countries, including France and the U.K., believe that if Ukraine swallows Russian demands, that would effectively rewrite the security architecture of Europe, bolstering Russia's status. Europe today sees Ukraine as a critical buffer between Russia and the rest of the continent. As a result, Europe's major powers prefer Ukraine to continue to fight, or preserve the right to to arm itself in the event of a ceasefire, rather than settle for a peace agreement with Russia.

As there is little common ground among the main players, Mr. Trump's overtures for peace seems to have hit a stonewall.

Afghanistan 'concerned' by Pakistan's deportations

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister expressed "deep concern and disappointment" to his Pakistani counterpart on Saturday over the forced deportation of tens of thousands of Afghans since the start of April.

Pakistan's top diplomat Ishaq Dar flew to Kabul for a day-long visit on Saturday where he held discussions with Afghan Taliban officials, including Prime Minister Hasan Akhund and Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

China will weaponise biotech, may create AI-powered super-soldiers, says U.S. panel

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

As the world enters an age of biotechnology, there is emerging evidence that China is "distorting" biotechnology markets and is quickly ascending to "dominance" in this field, having made this a strategic priority for the last 20 years, according to the U.S. National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology.

In a report submitted to the U.S. Congress, the Commission warned that China is likely to weaponise the technology and may create genetically enhanced super-soldiers, powered by artificial intelligence.

The report referred to India which it says is prioritising cost-effective bio-manufacturing, particularly of vaccines. AFP

"To remain competitive, the U.S. must take swift action in the next three years. Otherwise, we risk falling behind, a setback from which we may never recover," said the report based on two years of research and consultations with private and public experts.

Noting that U.S. allies and partners offer unique capabilities, the report referred to India which it says is "prioritising" cost-effective bio-manufacturing, particularly of vaccines.

"We must do more to take advantage of our partners' unparalleled strengths, which could include entering into reciprocal data-sharing agreements or pooling demand for biotechnology products," it said.

The Commission's main recommendation is that the U.S. government should dedicate a minimum of $15 billion over the next five years to unleash more private capital into the national biotechnology sector.

Sport

Verstappen snatches pole from Piastri in a thrilling qualifier

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
JEDDAH

Red Bull's Max Verstappen snatched the pole position from McLaren's Oscar Piastri in a gripping qualifying session for the Saubi Arabian Grand Prix on Saturday.

Piastri's teammate, championship leader Lando Norris, crashed in the top 10 shootout and will start on the fifth row in Sunday's race.

Four-time world champion Verstappen was in unstoppable form under the floodlights on the high-speed Jeddah Corniche Circuit, grabbing a spot in the front of the grid by one hundredth of a second.

Sizzling show: A few changes to the car ahead of qualifying worked wonders for Verstappen. GETTY IMAGES

"I definitely didn't expect to be on pole here," said a beaming Verstappen. "The car came alive in the night, we made some changes and it was more enjoyable to drive."

George Russell will start on the second row in his Mercedes alongside Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Kimi Antonelli, in the other Mercedes, will be on the third row along with Carlos Sainz (Williams).

The starting grid:

Front row: Max Verstappen (Red Bull) and Oscar Piastri (McLaren); **Second:** George Russell (Mercedes) and Charles Leclerc (Ferrari); **Third:** Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes) and Carlos Sainz (Williams); **Fourth:** Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari) and Yuki Tsunoda (Red Bull); **Fifth:** Pierre Gasly (Alpine) and Lando Norris (McLaren).

Sixth row: Alex Albon (Williams) and Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls); **Seventh:** Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) and Isack Hadjar (Racing Bulls); **Eighth:** Oliver Bearman (Haas) and Lance Stroll (Aston Martin); **Ninth:** Jack Doohan (Alpine) and Nico Hulkenberg (Sauber); **10th:** Esteban Ocon (Haas) and Gabriel Bortoleto (Sauber).

Raphinha fires Barcelona's stunning comeback win over Celta Vigo

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
BARCELONA

LaLiga leader Barcelona fought back from 3-1 down to beat Celta Vigo 4-3 in a rollercoaster encounter on Saturday, with a stoppage-time penalty by Raphinha extending its lead over Real Madrid at the top of the table to seven points.

Manchester City's chances of Champions League football next season were given a huge boost as two late goals from Nico O'Reilly and Mateo Kovacic helped it beat Everton 2-0 on Saturday to move up to fourth in the Premier League.

The clincher: Raphinha slots in from the spot to complete Barcelona's turnaround. AFP

Harry Kane scored his 60th Bundesliga goal in his 60th game to help Bayern Munich defeat Heidenheim 4-0 and close in on regaining the title.

The results: Premier League: Aston Villa 4 (Watkins 1, Maatsen 64, Burn 73-og, Onana 75) bt Newcastle 1 (Schar 18); Crystal Palace 0 drew with Bournemouth 0; Everton 0 lost to Manchester City 2 (O'Reilly 84, Kovacic 90+2); West Ham 1 (Bowen 47) drew with Southampton 1 (Ugochukwu 90+3); Brentford 4 (Mbeumo 9, 48, Wissa 58, Nørgaard 90+5) bt Brighton 2 (Welbeck 45+3, Mitoma 81).

LaLiga: Barcelona 4 (Torres 12, Olmo 64, Raphinha 68, 90+8-pen) bt Celta Vigo 3 (Iglesias 15, 52, 62).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 1 (Sesko 74-pen) drew with Holstein Kiel 1 (Machino 44); Heidenheim 0 lost to Bayern Munich 4 (Kane 12, Laimer 19, Coman 36, Kimmich 56).

Werder Bremen 1 (Weiser 80) bt Bochum 0; Freiburg 3 (Hoeler 28, 57, Doan 36) bt Hoffenheim 2 (Buelter 45+2, Kramaric 45+5); Mainz 2 (Lee 37, Kohr 40) drew with Wolfsburg 2 (Arnold 3, Vavro 89).

MILESTONE

Rahul completes 200 sixes in the IPL, 11th to achieve the feat

VIJAY SONEJI

Delhi Capitals' K.L. Rahul became the sixth Indian and 11th overall to hit 200 sixes in the IPL. He accomplished the milestone against Gujarat Titans. Rahul's 28 off just 14 balls was laced with four boundaries and a six. The top-three six-hitters in the competition are Chris Gayle (357), Rohit Sharma (286) and Virat Kohli (282).

RECORD-BREAKER

At 14, Suryavanshi becomes the youngest to make IPL debut

PTI

Rajasthan Royals' Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest player to make his debut in the IPL. The 14-year-and-23-day-old left-hander bettered the record of Prayas Ray Barman (16 years, 157 days) when he took the field against Lucknow Super Giants. Suryavanshi smashed a first-ball six as he made 34 off 20 balls.

FAMILIAR ROLE

Nayar returns to the Knight Riders' dugout as assistant coach

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After termination of his contract as the assistant coach of the Indian cricket team, Abhishek Nayar rejoined the Kolkata Knight Riders backroom staff on Saturday. Nayar, who worked as KKR assistant coach from 2018 to 2024, joined the national team last July and was relieved of his duties following a disappointing tour of Australia.

DILEMMA

We have run out of time to be too patient, says Fleming

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Head coach Stephen Fleming admitted CSK faces a dilemma regarding players who aren't delivering consistently. "It's a delicate phase, isn't it? We are still in the competition but we are hanging on by the thread, trying to find a balance between giving the guys an extended run to show some form and also, wanting to get results".

On the rampage: Buttler's blitz included a brutal takedown of the in-form Starc. VIJAY SONEJI

Buttler's dazzling knock takes GT to top of the table

The Gujarat outfit makes it three-in-a-row at home; Capitals' top-order fails to convert starts; Prasidh and Ishant hold their own on a belter

IPL-18

Dhruva Prasad
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans made it three-in-a-row at home and climbed to the top of the standings in IPL 2025 with an authoritative seven-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Saturday.

Jos Buttler's scintillating knock, which included a brutal takedown of the in-form Mitchell Starc, was too hot to handle for Capitals.

The Englishman toyed with Starc's yorkers, backing away and smearing the off side with four consecutive fours before pulling a short one to make it five boundaries in a row.

Costly over

That 20-run over left GT needing just 46 runs from the last five overs.

Sherfane Rutherford mistimed a rank full toss from Mukesh Kumar with 11 needed, and Starc was left to defend nine runs off the final over.

If there were any nerves, Rahul Tewatia shook them off with a six and a four, leaving Buttler stranded on 97.

Earlier, Capitals started off like the clappers, posting its season-best 73 runs in the PowerPlay, but stuttered at the death, eking out just 53 in the last five overs. All of Delhi's top six batters got off to starts, four of them struck thirties, but a big score evaded them.

Mixing it up

Prasidh Krishna aced the hard lengths on a belter and Ishant Sharma mixed it up well to ensure Mohammed Siraj and Rashid Khan's off days didn't cost the host too much.

Both Prasidh and Ishant were cramping up under the scorching sun but turned the heat on the opposition.

Prasidh nabbed Axar Patel and Vipraj Nigam off consecutive deliveries in the 18th over, and Ishant sent Donovan Ferreira back in the next with a low full toss.

R. Sai Kishore was brought on only to bowl the final over, and the Tamil Nadu spinner's ploy to keep the ball wide outside off-stump paid off as only nine runs came off the last six balls. Kuldeep Yadav sneaked a boundary off the final ball to take Capitals past the 200-run mark, but that wasn't enough.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	7	5	2	10	0.984
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	10	0.589
Punjab Kings	7	5	2	10	0.308
Lucknow Super Giants	8	5	3	10	0.088
Royal Challengers	7	4	3	8	0.446
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	3	4	6	0.547
Mumbai Indians	7	3	4	6	0.239
Rajasthan Royals	8	2	6	4	-0.633
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	2	5	4	-1.217
Chennai Super Kings	7	2	5	4	-1.276

** Till the RR-LSG match on April 19*

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Abishek Porel c Siraj b Arshad 18 *(9b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Karun Nair c Arshad b Prasidh 31 *(18b, 2x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul lbw b Prasidh 28 *(14b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Axar Patel c Buttler b Prasidh 39 *(32b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Tristan Stubbs c Prasidh b Siraj 31 *(21b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ashutosh Sharma c sub (Lomror) b Sai Kishore 37 *(19b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Vipraj Nigam c Buttler b Prasidh 0 *(1b)*, Donovan Ferreira **(Impact Player for Porel)** c Sai Kishore b Ishant 1 *(3b)*, Mitchell Starc (not out) 2 *(2b)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 4 *(1b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-3, w-9): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 203.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Porel, 1.4 overs), 2-58 (Rahul, 4.4), 3-93 (Karun, 8.2), 4-146 (Stubbs, 14.2), 5-173 (Axar, 17.1), 6-173 (Vipraj, 17.2), 7-191 (Ferreira, 18.4), 8-199 (Ashutosh, 19.5).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-47-1, Arshad 4-0-46-1, Prasidh 4-0-41-4, Rashid 4-0-38-0, Ishant 3-0-19-1, Sai Kishore 1-0-9-1.

GUJARAT TITANS
Sai Sudharsan c Stubbs b Kuldeep 36 *(21b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill run out 7 *(5b, 1x4)*, Jos Buttler (not out) 97 *(54b, 11x4, 4x6)*, Sherfane Rutherford **(Impact Player for Ishant)** c Starc b Mukesh 43 *(34b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 11 *(3b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-4): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 19.2 overs): 204.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Gill, 1.4), 2-74 (Sai Sudharsan, 7.3), 3-193 (Rutherford, 18.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Starc 3.2-0-49-0, Mukesh 4-0-40-1, Axar 2-0-18-0, Vipraj 4-0-34-0, Kuldeep 4-0-30-1, Mohit 2-0-28-0.

Toss: Titans.
PoM: Buttler.
Titans won by seven wickets with four balls to spare.

Next assignment

GT: April 21 vs **KKR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

DC: April 22 vs **LSG**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

Avesh swings it LSG's way at the death

Shayan Acharya
JAIPUR

It was another so-near-yet-so far moment for Rajasthan Royals as it suffered a two-run defeat against Lucknow Super Giants, despite Yashasvi Jaiswal's 52-ball-74 and teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi's promising innings on debut in the IPL on Saturday.

Chasing 181 on a sluggish Sawai Mansingh Stadium surface, the 14 year-and-23-day-old Suryavanshi, who became the youngest player to make his debut in the tournament, did not look under pressure as he hit Shardul Thakur for a six and followed it up with a six and a boundary off Avesh Khan, en route his 20-ball-34.

In the absence of captain Sanju Samson, who is yet to recover from his lower abdomen injury, Suryavanshi forged an 85-run opening stand with Jaiswal before being stumped off Aiden Markram.

However, with the seasoned Jaiswal bringing up his fourth half-century of the season, and adding 62 runs with stand-in captain Riyan Parag, Royals looked on course for a much-needed win, before Avesh (three for 37) turned things around, dismissing both in a span of five deliveries.

Royals needed only nine runs off the final over, but Avesh came up with a brilliant performance. Dhruv Jurel and Shubham Dubey struggled as the home team fell short.

Earlier, Parag shuffled his bowlers well. It was a disciplined show by the bowling unit, led by Jofra Archer, going into the 20th over despite fifties by Markram and Ayush Badoni.

But Abdul Samad hit four sixes off Sandeep Sharma to help his side add 27 off the last six balls. It was the joint-most Sandeep has conceded in an over in IPL. In the end, that cost the Royals dear.

Late burst: Avesh's performance in the final overs and Samad's cameo helped LSG win a thriller. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Mitchell Marsh c Hetmyer b Archer 4 *(6b)*, Aiden Markram c Parag b Hasaranga 66 *(45b, 5x4, 3x6)*, Nicholas Pooran lbw b Sandeep 11 *(8b, 2x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Jurel b Hasaranga 3 *(9b)*, Ayush Badoni **(Impact Player for Marsh)** c Dubey b Deshpande 50 *(34b, 5x4, 1x6)*, David Miller (not out) 7 *(8b)*, Abdul Samad (not out) 30 *(10b, 4x6)*; Extras (lb-4, wd-5): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 180.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Marsh, 2.2 overs), 2-46 (Pooran, 5.2), 3-54 (Pant, 7.4), 4-130 (Markram, 15.5), 5-143 (Badoni, 17.3).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 4-0-32-1, Theekshana 4-0-32-0, Sandeep 4-0-55-1, Deshpande 4-0-26-1, Hasaranga 4-0-31-2.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal b Avesh 74 *(52b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi **(Impact Player for Sandeep)** st. Pant b Markram 34 *(20b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Nitish Rana c Avesh b Shardul 8 *(7b, 1x6)*, Riyan Parag lbw b Avesh 39 *(26b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Dhruv Jurel (not out) 6 *(5b)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Shardul b Avesh 12 *(7b, 2x4)*, Shubham Dubey (not out) 3 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 178.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-85 (Suryavanshi, 8.4), 2-94 (Nitish, 9.6), 3-156 (Jaiswal, 17.1), 4-161 (Parag, 17.6), 5-175 (Hetmyer, 19.3).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Shardul 3-0-34-1, Avesh 4-0-37-3, Digvesh 4-0-30-0, Markram 2-0-18-1, Prince 4-0-39-0, Bishnoi 3-0-19-0.

Toss: LSG; **PoM:** Avesh.
LSG won by two runs.

Next assignment

LSG: April 22 vs **DC**
Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

RR: April 24 vs **RCB**
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

Legends: Dhoni and Bumrah in a relaxed frame of mind ahead of the big clash. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mumbai Indians, Super Kings brace for another chapter of storied rivalry

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

For most of the pre-match days at Chepauk, he usually enters the ground in the latter half of Chennai Super Kings' practice session. On Saturday, though, he walked down the famed stairs of the Wankhede Stadium soon after the batters started a range-hitting streak and had a gentle jog with the team physio Tommy Simsek.

As he returns to lead the men in yellow, M.S. Dhoni will be expected to sprint to a cameo and give the CSK campaign a much-needed boost at the start of the latter half of the IPL.

While Dhoni will continue to be in the limelight in the marquee clash between the two most successful IPL teams, both the camps will be eager for a convincing win to switch gears into the league.

Both teams have been languishing in the bottom half at the halfway stage. Despite notching a win in their last games, neither outfit appears to be a settled lot that's ready to challenge for a place in the Playoffs yet.

The pitch, though, will be in focus, with Thursday's strip being a tacky, slow turner. With the adjacent strip that saw a run-feast against Royal Challengers Bengaluru being used, fans can hope for a six-hitting contest.

Karn Sharma, the MI leggie, is all but ruled out after having split his webbing against Sunrisers. The home team will thus be banking on Will Jacks' off-spin to stifle yet another left-handed top-order.

CSK will be tempted to field Dewald Brevis, who joined the camp on Saturday, considering his familiarity with the conditions and the desperation to infuse aggression in its batting order.

Today's matches

PUNJAB KINGS vs. RCB
New Chandigarh, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **34**
PBKS **18** | RCB **16**
PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by five wickets, 2025

MUMBAI INDIANS vs. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **38**
MI **20** | CSK **18**
PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by four wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Punjab Kings eyes the double against Royal Challengers

M.R. Praveen Chandran
NEW CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings is enjoying one of its better starts in IPL under its prized catch Shreyas Iyer. Halfway through the tournament, Kings are in third spot with 10 points and will look to cement their position when they take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru here on Sunday.

Fresh from a five-wicket win in the rain-truncated match against RCB in Bengaluru, PBKS will look to keep up the winning momentum. Yuzvendra Chahal is making the ball talk after an indifferent start to the season. Chahal's wickets in the middle overs have been the key factor in PBKS' win in the last two matches.

The RCB bowlers will be wary of Kings' batting firepower with almost all the batters, with the exception of Glenn Maxwell, making a significant contribution.

PBKS has started well at home, winning two out of the three matches. However, it will be up against RCB which has been formidable on the road this season. RCB, which has won four consecutive matches away from home, will be looking for revenge.

On a tacky pitch in Bengaluru, the RCB batters came a cropper but they will be more at home at Mullanpur where the track has traditionally favoured the batters barring the last game in which PBKS defended 111 against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Apart from finding consistency with the bat, RCB will also want leg-spinner Suyash Sharma to step up after a rather average performance on Friday.

Top show: Kings were right on the money with their bowling and catching in the rain-hit game against RCB. K. MURALI KUMAR

INBRIEF

Kriish & Rethin clinch the title in Kuala Lumpur

Top seed Kriish Tyagi, *right in pic.*, defeated fourth seed Connor Doig of South Africa 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 in the semifinals of the ITF junior tennis tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. In the final, Kriish will play sixth seed Aussie Cruz Hewitt, son of former World No. 1 and Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt. Kriish combined with Rethin Pranav, *left in pic.*, to clinch the doubles title, beating second seeds Jake Dembo and Try Host of Australia 4-6, 6-1, [10-6] in the final.

Anish Bhanwala misses final by two points

Anish Bhanwala shot 575 and missed the final by two points in 25m rapid fire pistol in the World Cup in Lima, Peru, on Friday. Vijayveer Sidhu scored 569 for the 17th spot, while Gurpreet Singh 572 finished 14th. Matej Rampula of the Czech Republic beat Su Lianbofan of China 30-27 for the gold.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7, 9 & 11 p.m.
Formula One: Saudi Arabian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 10.30 p.m.

Maini buoyed about realising his dream

The driver, poised to become the third Indian to race in Formula One, thanks his team Alpine for backing him during the tough times; says he can't wait to soak in the ultimate experience

MOTORSPORTS

Anish Pathiyil
JEDDAH

Eye on the prize: Maini is keen on doing his bit to see more Indians in Formula One. GETTY IMAGES

Alpine Academy driver Kush Maini said he has his eyes fully set on becoming just the third Indian to reach Formula One, the highest level of single-seater racing, rather than exploring other forms of motorsports.

Maini, who is currently in his third season in Formula Two, is also the reserve driver for Mahindra Racing in Formula E and had impressed with the fastest time during the Rookie's practice session earlier in the year.

"Every time I get the opportunity [in Formula E], I jump in and drive. I enjoy it. It's nice to drive with an Indian team," Maini told select media on the sidelines of the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix in Jeddah.

"But, growing up, we've put everything into this [F1] dream and I want to see it through whatever happens," he added.

The 24-year-old was named Alpine's Test and Development driver ahead of the season, extending his role to the simulator, while also participating in the TPC programme (Testing of Previous Cars).

"I wouldn't be where I am today without Alpine. Last year wasn't an ideal year (13th in the F2 standings), and they promoted me to reserve driver because they saw something.

"Even in the very hard moments, they come through and they're always getting the best out of me," Maini said.

"Before I joined the academy, it was tough because I didn't know how to regulate emotions when things didn't go right. But today, I'm a much more mature guy.

"This year is about me getting ready, and god willing, results will come," the Dams driver said.

"For Indians, it's very tough to get to this point," the young driver mentioned, speaking about his struggles to reach the pinnacle of motorsports.

"My goal right now is to make it [to F1] and see what I can do to help the country grow in this aspect," he said.

(The writer is in Jeddah for the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on the invitation of Saudi Motorsport).

HCA Ombudsman orders removal of Azhar's name from stand in Uppal Stadium

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Ombudsman has issued an order to remove Mohammed Azharuddin's name from the North Pavilion Stand of the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium. The order, passed by former acting chief justice V. Eswaraiah, further states that no tickets should be printed with the former Indian captain's name.

The issue dates back to 2019, when Azharuddin was the HCA president. In an Apex Council meeting on November 25 that year, which was presided over by the 62-year-old, a decision was taken to name the North Stand as 'Azharuddin Stand', which was then called the V.V.S. Laxman Pavilion.

A complaint was filed on February 28 this year by a city-based outfit, Lords Cricket Club (LCC), one of 226 members with the HCA. It stated that the move to name the stand after Azharuddin violated the Memorandum of Association and Rules & Regulations of HCA. It argued that, according to Rule 38, a member of the Apex Council cannot take any decision in their favour.

Azharuddin, however, has denied all charges of a conflict of interest and said that he will approach the High Court challenging the HCA Ombudsman's order.

"There's no conflict of interest in this. I don't want to comment, I don't want to stoop to this level. The cricketing world will laugh at the association. 17 years of cricket, almost 10 years as captain of the side, and with distinction. This is how you treat cricketers in Hyderabad. It's a very sad state of affairs. We will go to the court, 100%. The law will take its course," he told *The Hindu*.

LCC, on the other hand, expressed satisfaction at the outcome.

"This decision reinforces our commitment to transparency and integrity. We thank the authorities for their fair and just evaluation," the club's treasurer, Somna Misra, said.

Very proud to have become a WGM, says Vijayalakshmi on comeback

CHESS

Debosmita Maity
BENGALURU

Welcome return: Vijayalakshmi was back in action after five years. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India's first Woman Grandmaster (WGM) and Arjuna awardee S. Vijayalakshmi returned to competitive chess after more than five years at the second Namma Bengaluru International Grandmasters Open Chess Tournament here.

Vijayalakshmi first took a break from the sport in 2007, when her father passed away. She took another break during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I don't require a push to play. Chess is my passion and my first love. You can call me any day for a game, and I will be there," Vijayalakshmi said.

She credited her husband, Grandmaster Sriram Jha, for supporting her through thick and thin, while adding that there are challenges to maintaining a balance between chess and family life. "Marriage was never a setback for me, but it is for many others in the sport. Even so, being a mother meant that every time I play a tournament, I was stealing time I could have spent with my child," she said.

While becoming the first WGM from the country stands as a career highlight, Vijayalakshmi takes great pride in winning two silver medals at the Chess Olympiad (2000, 2002).

Unlike some of her peers, Vijayalakshmi believes that there is a place for gender titles. "I am very proud to have become a Woman Grandmaster. That title has motivated millions of little girls to take up the sport. Just because I am capable of playing in men's competitions does not mean that I should be deprived of the opportunity to play in women-only tournaments."

The 46-year-old added that women in chess face their share of challenges. "People say that men and women can compete equally, because chess is a game of the mind. But they forget that this is also a sport. You require physical endurance and utilise that to sustain mental endurance. Women undergo childbirth, menstruation, and other physiological modifications. This affects performance," Vijayalakshmi said.

India wraps up Asian under-18 athletics c'ships with 11 medals

Star performers: While Himanshu claimed the boys' javelin throw. gold the Indian boys' medley team took silver. X@MEDIA_SAI

ANI
DAMMAM (SAUDI ARABIA)

India finished the Asian U18 Athletics Championships 2025 with a total of 11 medals – one gold, five silver and five bronze – here on Friday.

Himanshu bagged India's solitary gold after winning the boys' javelin event. His 67.57m opening throw was enough to land the gold ahead of China's Lu Hao (63.45m) and Uzbekistan's Ruslan Sadullaev (61.96m).

Devak Bhushan who won the high jump silver. X@MEDIA_SAI

Earlier on Thursday, Nitin Gupta won boys' 5000m race walk silver. The 17-year-old Army Boys Sports Company cadet clocked 20:21.51 seconds to finish behind China's Zhu Ninghao, who was just 0.01 second faster.

Among the girls, Tannu claimed the 400m silver in 57.63s to finish behind Japan's Imamine Saki (57.27). India's Edwina Jason was fifth with a time of 58.46s.

Sixteen-yea-old Nischay bagged the boys' shot put silver medal with a personal best of 19.59m after claiming the discus bronze with a 58.85m throw.

Aarti also won two bronze medals – in the girls' 100m and 200m sprint events. She clocked new personal bests (11.93s in 100m and 24.31s in 200m) in both events.

In boys' high jump, Devak Bhushan clinched silver with a 2.03m leap.

Chiranth, Sayed Sabeer, Saket Minj and Kadir Khan landed silver in the boys' medley relay race with a new youth national record time of 1:52.15 (previous mark was 1:52.96).

Anchal Sajesh Patil (1.65m) narrowly finished outside the podium in girls' high jump.

Churchill Brothers is I-League champion, Inter Kashi to appeal

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
JAMSHEDPUR

Churchill Brothers, the provisional leader of I-League, was adjudged the league champion for the 2024-25 season by the Appeals Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday.

It is the third I-League title for the Goan side and its first in 12 years, making it the joint-most successful team in the tournament.

Club owner Churchill Alemao maintained that the side will play no part in the Kalinga Super Cup, a tournament it had withdrawn from last week, giving a bye to Mohun Bagan Super Giant into the quarterfinals.

"We had written to the AIFF earlier (about withdrawing) and still maintain that because most of our players are gone. Had we known the decision (of being crowned I-League champion) earlier, we could have kept some of them back," he told *The Hindu*.

Meanwhile, Inter Kashi, which was banking on three extra points from a match against Namdhari FC on January 13, finished second.

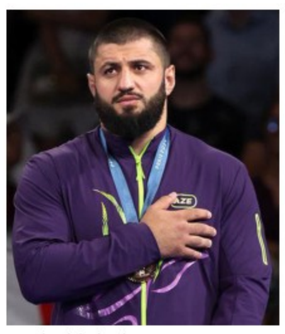
The club has decided to challenge the decision at the Court of Arbitration in Sport.

"Inter Kashi has been clear that the case involves a simple interpretation of rules and regulations based on some undisputed facts. Inter Kashi will keep no stone unturned to secure justice, and any celebration in the interim may ultimately prove to be premature in nature," the club said in a statement.

How Azerbaijan's Meshvildishvili honed his skill in Indian *akharas*

WRESTLING

Jonathan Selvaraj
NEW DELHI



Meshvildishvili.
FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

When he won gold at the European wrestling championships last week, Giorgi Meshvildishvilli cemented his claim as one of the world's top heavyweight wrestlers. Representing Azerbaijan, the 33-year-old won bronze at the Paris Olympics in the men's 125 kg category. But long before he was winning big in international wrestling, Giorgi was competing for prizes with a bit more rural flair, in India's *kushti* circles.

In bouts that are available to watch on *YouTube* and shared widely on social media, Giorgi, billed as Giorgi of Georgia, competed against some of India's biggest names in *kushti* - Jassa Patti, Sikander Sheikh and Pritpal Singh. He fought wearing the Indian-style jockstrap, or *langot*, on *mitti*, or mud, in front of screaming crowds egged on by *dhol* beaters in villages in Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Maharashtra.

It's unlikely many of those spectators had an inkling of who he would turn out to be.

"When he first came to India he wasn't as famous a wrestler as he is now," said Vijay Sharma also known as Golu Pehelwan who runs Vishkarma Mahavir Akhara in Mullanpur.

Although he struggled in his first time as a *kushti* wrestler, Giorgi has returned to India multiple times, getting better each time. On his last visit to India, he beat Jassa Patti at the Mehri Kathla Dangal held in April 2022 in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh.

Dangal committees put up huge sums as prize money to get the best wrestlers competing at their competition.

Giorgi doesn't say what he's made so far, but said this of his Indian sojourn to *The Hindu*: "I have driven on tractor, motor (cycle) and buffalo. I like Indian *dangal*. Money is very good also."

"I like Indian *dangal* very much. Very strong matches. It feels like Gladiator," Giorgi added.

SNAPSHOTS

Servin takes top honours

Servin Sebastian continued his good form this year and clocked another impressive performance to win the 20km event at the 12th Indian Open race walking competition, in Chandigarh, on Saturday.

The results: Men: 35km: 1. Ram Baboo (Army, 2:32:53.50), 2. Sandeep Kumar (Har, 2:35:05.75), 3. Vijay Vishwakarma (SSCB, 2:41:41.49); **20km:** Servin Sebastian (TN, 1:21:46.47), 2. Amit (Army, 1:21:51.46), 3. Amanjot Singh (Army, 1:22:12.72). **Women: 34km:** 1. Payal (RSPB, 2:51:48.76), 2. Manju Rani (Pun, 2:55:34.19), 3. Ramandeep Kaur (Pun, 2:57:03.94); **20km:** 1. Ravina (Har, 1:35:58.80), Munita Prajapati (UP, 1:38:05.60), 3. Shalini (Utk, 1:39:18.90).

Big win for V. Raja HC

V. Raja Hockey Club crushed Falcon Hockey Club 7-1 in the KSHA-BHA Super Division hockey league championship here on Saturday.

The results: V. Raja HC bt Falcon Hockey Club 7-1; Hindustan Friends Club bt Rainbow HC 2-1.

Centuries for Rohan, Abhay Rangan

N. Rohan and A. Abhay Rangan scored centuries in the drawn KSCA Group I, Division I encounter between Rajajinagar Cricketers and Cambridge Cricket Club here.

The scores: Rajajinagar Cricketers 332 in 72.1 overs (Sireesh Balgaar 53, C. Sanjay Ashwin 42, N. Rohan 152, M.R. Jayanth 4/84) drew with Cambridge CC 335/9 in 78.4 overs (Prith Sadanand 66, Macneil Hadley Noronha 56, A. Abhay Rangan 102, M.R. Jayanth 50, S. Bhargav 3/76, Rahul Parasanna 5/53).

Swastic Union CC (2) 400/7 in 90 overs (Hardik Raj 36, B.N. Yashwant 118, B. Vijaya Raj 85, Sujay Sateri 67, L.R. Kumar 3/100) drew with Sir Syed Cricketers 157 in 56.2 overs (L.R. Kumar 53, Mohsin Khan 3/22, Hardik Raj 4/50) and 27 for no loss in 7 overs.

Bangalore Occasionals 161 in 40 overs (Niranjan 62, K.M. Pravesh 5/54) and 72/2 in 22 overs (Kush Marathe 29 n.o) drew with Herons CC 354 in 75.4 overs (Shivratana 29, U. Karan 42, Vineet Manjunath 87, Faizan Khan 85, S. Vinodh 49, Aditya Mani 29, Prateek Jain 4/43, Rajvir Wadhwa 3/68).

Vultures CC 346 in 89.4 overs (K.P. Karthikeya 156, Shikhar Shetty 65, Rajendra Danganavar 3/62) drew with Bangalore United CC (1) 266 in 79.1 overs (Tushar Singh 61, M. Arsalaan 34, Kishan Bedare 82, Vidyadhar Patil 31, Shikhar Shetty 5/66).

Swastic Union CC (1) 408/8 in 90 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 140, Vishal Onat 65, E.J. Jasper 68, Anirudh Srinivas 53, Bhimrao Navale 59, S. Prajwal Aadarsh 3/45) drew with Social Cricketers 205 in 47 overs (Krishiv Bajaj 44, Younis Ali Baig 28, Sourab Muttur 35, S. Aadarsh Prajwal 30, Paras Gurbax Arya 4/67, Shashikumar 4/53) and 77/1 in 10.4 overs (Lochan Gowda 61).

Friends Union CC (1) 171 in 52.2 overs (B.U. Shivakumar 28, Ravi Kairav Reddy 27, Aarush Mehrotra 26, S.A. Rishi Bopanna 38, K. Gourav 3/46) and 130 in 39.2 overs (S.A. Rishi Bopanna 52, Aarush Mehrotra 25) lost to Jawans CC 225 in 48.5 overs (Mayank Agarwal 46, Harshil 56, S. Ishaan 38, B.U. Shivakumar 7/49) and 117/1 in 17.4 overs (S.U. Karthik 70 n.o., Mayank Agarwal 40).